



## Saving the calligraphy brush

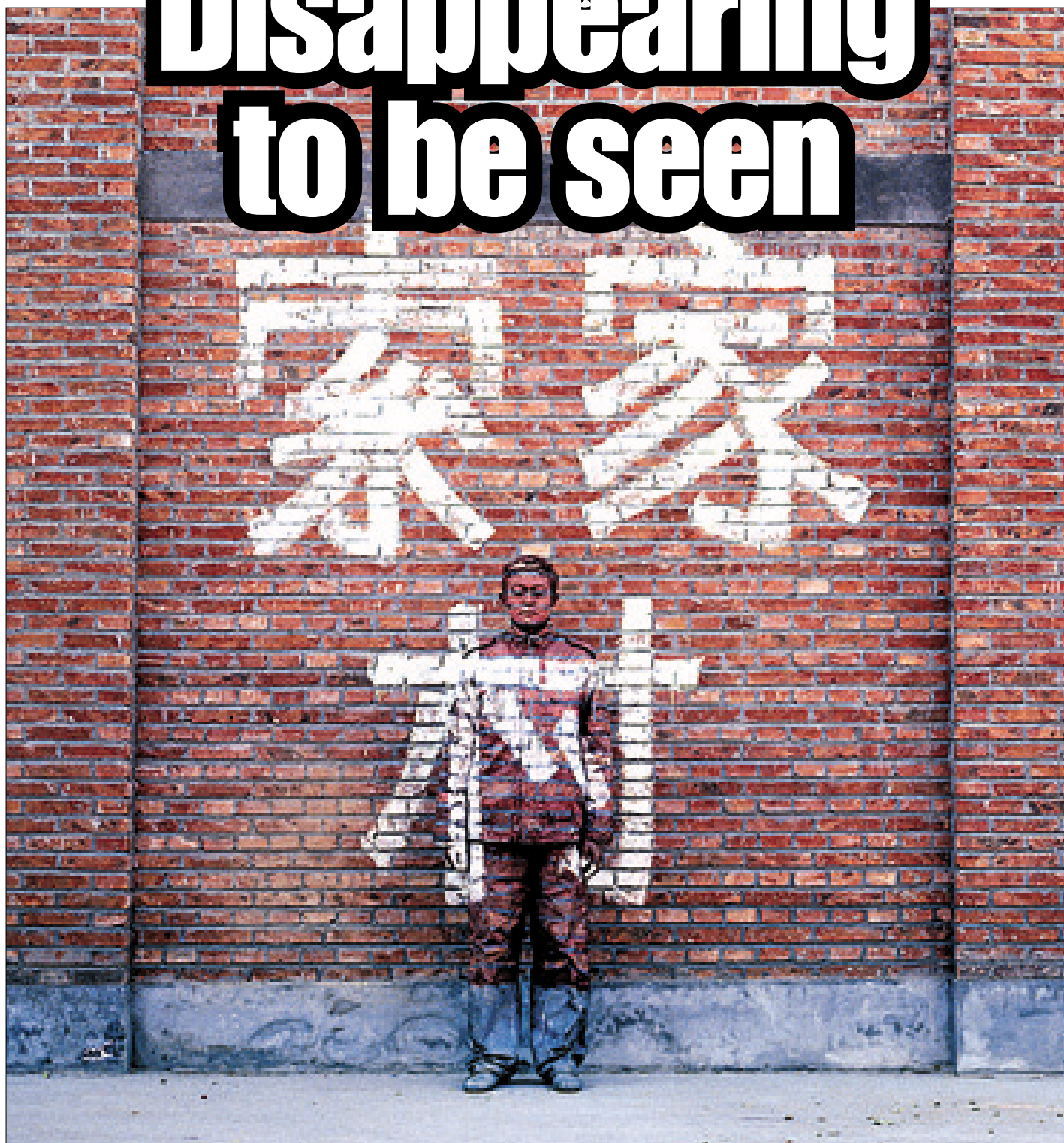
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## Giant Transformers

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# Disappearing to be seen



"In the beginning, artists were too poor to buy materials. What they could use were their bodies." Liu Bolin describes his experience as a new artist, which led to the creation of his signature "invisible man" series. In the performance art works, created at a tumultuous time in his life and for Beijing's art community, Liu camouflaged himself into things like walls, bridges and telephone booths. He has since made a reputation with pieces discussing China's history and contemporary life. After years of struggling, he has made it onto the world's art stage, not to mention making an income from his quirky ideas.

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# Fifth version of Confucius' family tree unveiled

By Wang Yu

September 28 was the 2,560th birthday of Confucius, one of China's greatest thinkers and social philosophers. A celebration was held in a Confucian temple in Qufu, Shandong Province, the sage's hometown.

This year's occasion was special because it coincided with the unveiling of a fifth version of Confucius' family tree, last revised 72 years ago.

It took the Confucius Genealogy Compilation Committee 13 years to amend the "longest pedigree in the world," as confirmed by Guinness World Records in 2005. Kong Deyong, a 77th-generation descendant of Confucius and head of the committee, registered the committee in Hong Kong in 1998, then hired more than 450 agents worldwide to collect information about the descendants.

The updated version includes 2 million descendants. For the first time, women, ethnic minorities and overseas offspring have been added to the list.

Over twenty percent of the descendants are female. Kong Kaiping who works in a culture company in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, was the first female on the list. After being included in the family tree, Kong spent three years traveling in Jiangsu and helped discover more descendants of Confucius.

There are still a number of descendants who objected to listing female offspring, Kong said.

"People think women belong to another family after marriage. But gender never changes your blood," Kong said.



77th-generation descendant Kong Deyong (middle) in the unveiling ceremony.

CFP Photo

Though the sage is recorded as being Han, lots of descendants became ethnic minorities over time. The new family tree records descendants representing at least 14 minorities. Kong Xiangxian, a 71-year-old former government officer, is a Muslim whose name is on the list. He said the new genealogy reflects the family's diversity.

Kong said that people in rural areas and foreign countries have been more active during the past 13 years. Nationality is no longer a problem, either. Descendants who have foreign citizenship in countries like the US, Australia, Switzerland and Korea are now part of the list. Among these countries, the Koreans have the most descendants, with about 50,000.

The process of compiling the genealogy raised debates, Kong said. There was a descendant who is a reputable professor in Shanghai who adamantly refused to get involved in the project. From his perspective, the compilation was out of time. He called the committee members swindlers.

Kong said his aim is not to reestablish the family system but to protect an aspect of traditional Chinese culture. As the longest family list in the world, the Confucius genealogy is also valuable for researchers in demographics, sociology and pedagogy.

To protect the information, a database has been set up with former editions, the first of which was finished in 1937. A Web site, kong.jiapu.com, is also now open to the public. On the site, viewers can check relevant information from the distribution of the descendants and inside stories gathered during the compilation.

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## Beijing opens first disposal plant for dead animals

By Jin Zhu

Beijing's first pollution-free disposal plant for dead pets opened on September 26 as part of a theme park for pets in suburban Songzhuang.

The center is part of CKC International Pet Dog Park, which covers an area of 3,000 square meters. There is space for more than 1,000 tombstones.

"Cremation of pets is becoming more popular because it is hygienic and dignified," said Wang Zheng, the park's deputy general manager. "The whole process, including combustion, cooling and exhaust, is pollution-free."

The cremation process uses the most advanced computer technology available.

"There is a special space with three floors underground to deal with mixtures of smoke, dust and other pollutants," Wang said.

At present, Beijing has more than 1 million registered pets and nearly a million more unregistered ones. With a death rate of 3 percent, there is huge demand for pet cremation services. Most residents currently bury their pets, which could lead to environmental pollution and disease associated with the decay of dead animals, Wang said.



The cremation process, which includes combustion, cooling and exhaust, is pollution-free.

Photo provided by Wang Zheng

Although the cemetery only has one incinerator, it can cremate hundreds of dead pets per day.

"For each pet, the cremation process lasts 20 to 30 minutes," Wang said. "So far, 10-plus owners have cremated their deceased dogs on it."

Cremation costs 600 to 800 yuan, depending on the size of the animal, and cemetery maintenance costs the owner an additional 500 yuan per year.

The opening of the first cemetery brought job opportunities to local residents. "All workers, including cosmeticians, cremation operators and attendants in the cemetery, are local residents," Wang said.

The Municipal Bureau of Agriculture said in August that 10 special disposal plants will be completed in the suburbs by 2012 to counter the lack of burial sites for dead animals in the city. Three of the 10 disposal plants are to enter construction this year.

## Qianmen Street returns to commercial roots

By Venus Lee

A dozen foreign journalists were invited by the municipal government press office to attend the opening ceremony of Qianmen Street on September 28, when 103 shops opened their doors to the public.

Meng Zhijun, head of Chongwen District's Bureau of Commerce, said the contracted businesses include 81 domestic brands and 22 multinational brands, with an expected yearly turnover of more than 1 billion yuan.

As the birthplace of many time-honored domestic brands, Qianmen Street has long been the commercial hub of the capital. "But now, it adds a modern flavor

to the historical area by embracing foreign brands. The street is becoming more international," said Ouyang Legeng, a Japanese reporter.

"The improved infrastructure here impressed me most," said Vardon Fisher, a correspondent from Hungarian Diamond Media. "The renewed Qianmen Street not only well represents the style of the ancient capital but facilitates the life of people nearby. Now the street can serve tourists from home and abroad better."

Qianmen Street is considered one of the most popular places for visitors to Beijing. It has received some 60 million visitors since its reopening last August after a year of restoration work.



# Chinese craftsman dreams of the perfect writing brush

## A man persisting in keeping calligraphy brushes relevant

By Zhao Hongyi

With the popularization of computers, people are losing the art of handwriting. In China, the traditional craft of making calligraphy brushes is diminishing.

Fortunately, a number of traditional Chinese craftsmen have kept calligraphy alive by supplying the necessary equipment, namely writing brushes, ink, traditional writing paper and ink stones.

Wu Jingsheng is one of those rare brush makers left in China. On July 18 he was honored in Beijing with a national certificate calling him a "Master of Traditional Chinese Writing Tools," one of four masters named this year. He was very proud to have received this certificate in the Great Hall of the People.



Wu Jingsheng (left) called back his son (right) to assist him in his brush business.

Photos by Yan Tong

### Glory days passing away

Wu, 53, has been involved in Chinese brush production for 37 years. At the age of 16, he joined the famous Beijing Writing Brush Factory as an apprentice. Here, Wu got opportunities to learn from famous brush masters like Jia Changlin, and he quickly improved his skills. Years after entering the factory, Wu became famous in Beijing and around the country.

Encouraged by market-oriented economic reforms, Wu eventually set up his own brush factory, using his name as the brand.

In the early years, Wu operated during the peak of demand. In the 1990s, annual brush sales reached one million yuan in Beijing, with northern-style writing brushes the major product. Wu produced and sold tens of thousands of writing brushes every year. Before 2000, Wu employed dozens of brush makers, most of them his relatives.

The largest demand came from schools, as pupils had to learn calligraphy in junior high. Before the start of every semester, students and their parents would purchase huge amounts of brushes. Wu and his workers had to make brushes day and night during summer and winter breaks.

"As recently as 2000, I heard the government call on students to learn to write Chinese characters using pens, chalk and brushes," Wu says. "But it seems people are dropping this skill and losing their interest to write."

Wu blames the use of computers. "People are becoming lazy today. I can type words beautifully, they think. Why should I write them in beautiful shapes?"

Wu believes Chinese calligraphy is not just an art form. "It's a mental



Wu insists on using the best hairs, from wolves and weasels.



Most of the workers are Wu's nephews and neighbors.

and spiritual exercise. People, especially young people, need to balance, master and control themselves as individuals in society. Writing traditional Chinese characters can help them in this regard."

To write beautiful Chinese characters, you need to calm yourself and use your elbows to move your hands and brush. You also need to balance the structure of your characters, which is critical to making your writing beautiful.

"All these skills need years of training and exercise," Wu says.

He believes these exercises are very important for people to manage their career and life in a

world that is becoming more hectic and competitive.

It can also be a lifelong hobby that helps preserve a part of traditional culture. "We shouldn't and can't drop this," Wu said.

### Shrinking market

Adapting to market changes, Wu targets elites and collectors, especially foreigners. This requires him to raise the quality and variety of his products.

Wu insists on making brushes using the hairs of wolves and weasels hunted during early winter.

"The hair of these animals during these seasons is the best," Wu says. "If I can't get these hairs,

I'd prefer to rest. It brings me enjoyment to provide only the best products to potential clients."

Wu has high standards in choosing and washing hairs. "This process is very important for the perfect brush."

Other important processes include choosing the right shaft. "Only by paying attention to the small details can you make an excellent writing brush," Wu says.

He has created new types of writing brushes based on the needs of Chinese paintings and calligraphy, trying to raise the demand for his brushes. Wu makes friends with elites, who in turn feed him advice for necessary improvements.

"You can have many writing brushes, but you have to keep several brushes from Wu, as his products can help you fully express the ideas and styles you want," Ma Ji, a former traditional Chinese cross-talker and also a famous figure in traditional Chinese calligraphy, once said.

Gradually, Wu has gained reputation in the northern part of China. His brushes have become unique among northern-style brushes, which are declining in market share. Southern-style brushes, which come in more sizes and are made using different furs, are becoming more and more popular.

Under advice and persuasion from his cousins, nephews and son, Wu has learned lots about southern brushes. The different types include infant-hair brushes, gift brushes and decorative brushes. These brushes make excellent gifts. The longest brush Wu made had a meter of hair.

Contrary to Wu's expectations, these brushes of new styles have sold quite well.

### Efforts for recovery

In the beginning, Wu had a brush plant in Guang'anmen, in the southwest part of Second Ring Road in Xuanwu District. But he had to move his plant to Tongzhou District in the east due to the city's development.

Wu called back his son, who is an IT professional in Zhongguancun, to help him. "We cannot drop the skill," Wu says. "There is need to pass it from generation to generation."

Wu's son seems to have more interest in selling than producing his father's brushes. The younger Wu suggested his father open an online shop on Taobao and eBay to sell the brushes in more ways and at possibly higher prices.

Wu understands that passing on the culture of calligraphy relies on more than individual effort. "It requires great effort from us all," he says.

While he focuses on brush production, Wu has also joined several social organizations, especially those related to calligraphy brushes. He wants to use these platforms to promote a calligraphy renaissance.

The groups include the Traditional Chinese Reading Room Tools Society (the tools are namely paper, ink, brush and ink-slab) and the Chinese Writing Brush Council. He actively receives interview requests from both domestic and international reporters.

Today, brushes are becoming an icon in Chinese literature and arts. People collect various types of brushes for decoration and souvenirs and give them as gifts.

"That's enough during this difficult time," Wu says. He believes that sooner or later, handwriting will make its comeback. "History develops beyond our expectations."



# New China at 60

## Parade brims over with confidence about future

The colorful military parade held on October 1, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, was a show of strength by a nation that has rarely been more confident, analysts say.



China held a grand ceremony last Thursday to celebrate the 60th birthday of New China.

CFP Photo

### Parade stopped the nation

The country celebrated 60 years of Communist rule last Thursday with a spectacular parade to display the nation's growing military and economic might and national pride.

While leaders and privileged guests attended the official celebration in Beijing, people around the country stopped to watch the event on television and celebrate the milestone with friends and families.

Standing atop Tian'anmen Gate – the spot from which Mao Zedong proclaimed the birth of New China in 1949 – President Hu Jintao told the watching nation that the Chinese people were “full of confidence” about the future.

“Today, a socialist China geared toward modernization, the world and the future stands rock-firm in the East,” he said.

Before his speech, Hu, dressed in a gray high-collared Mao suit, rode in a made-in-China Red Flag limousine to review more than 8,000 troops.

Watching the live broadcast of the ceremony, Beijing resident Guo Jiantang, 79, reflected on how his life has changed in the past 60 years. The former landlord said that despite his family's suffering in the early days of Communist rule, the country would not be as good as it is today without the party.

Guo said he watched the 1984 National Day parade on a seven-inch black-and-white TV and the 1999 parade on a 21-inch color TV. This year, he watched in high-definition on a 42-inch plasma TV.

### The next global leader

Gazing into the crystal ball

toward 2049, the centenary of New China's founding, yields only murky visions, but scholars agree China will soon be acknowledged as the dominant world power.

Factors ranging from political stability and economic sustainability to climate change and war are all weighed into predictions about where the country might stand in 2049 and beyond.

There is consensus on one important point – that the economic performance of the past three decades is no flash in the pan. Forty years from now, with an output double that of the US, China will have climbed to the top of the economic podium.

According to Mao Yushi, one of the nation's most influential economists, the economy by then will not only be bigger, it will also be healthier.

The service industry will increase its share of gross domestic product to 80 percent from its current 41 percent, reflecting a new consumer orientation. The grotesque trade imbalances, which have mainly been driven by the country's excessive dependence on exports, will ease off, Mao predicts.

An economy topping the global chart would almost certainly give China commercial and institutional leadership in the world, says Albert Keidel, former senior associate in the China program at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

If the path of development continues, China will be among the world's top 30 modernized nations 40 years from now, Mao says.

(Agencies)

### The ruling party

## A conversation with young Communists

*The leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has always been regarded as a mystery in the West. CNN's Emily Chang recently carried out a face-to-face interview with three young adults in the CPC, talking about how the younger generation views the party.*

When we requested an interview with members of the Communist Youth League, I expected an army of suits with well-rehearsed answers. Instead, we met three students casually dressed in jeans, 18 to 23 years old.

The interview was arranged by the State Council Informa-

tion Office.

Unlike many government-sanctioned shoots, it was not carefully choreographed or closely monitored. All of the students are members of the CPC and the Communist Youth League.

“I think Communism is an ideal state of society that everyone should pursue,” said Natalie Chen, an 18-year-old freshman and finance major at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management. “In the Communist society, everything is fair in economics, in politics, in education. Everybody has equal opportunity and that's a

great society.”

Young students like Chen are the future of the CPC, which now is the largest political party in the world with 75 million members.

“I think we have a goal,” said 23-year-old Christina Zhang, an undergraduate in linguistics at Beijing Normal University. “That is to reach a harmonious society. That is our dream.”

In fact, there are challenges the CPC will face in the years ahead. Young Communists like Chen, Zhang and Lin will be responsible for rising to these types of challenges and shaping the party's future.

### Third eye

## World media hail celebration

Reporters from around the globe have lauded the massive celebration on Tian'anmen Square commemorating the 60th anniversary of New China.

Singapore's leading newspaper, the *Straits Times*, said last Friday that China's 60th anniversary was a shining moment and an act that marked China's transformation into a global power.

The newspaper said in its front page story that China rolled out its sophisticated weaponry, backed by 8,000 goose-stepping soldiers and an eye-catching formation of sub-machine-gun-toting women volunteer troops in pink uniforms, set off by white berets and boots.

“The weapons showed Chi-

na's dramatic progress in the last 10 years. The People's Liberation Army is a modernized force now,” Bo Zhiyue, analyst of Singapore's East Asian Institute, said.

Vietnamese newspaper *Labor* commented that the unprecedented large-scale military parade, part of China's grand National Day celebration, confirmed China's position as a global power and the world's third largest economy.

The newspaper said President Hu Jintao's speech showed that Chinese people are confident about a bright future and the country's strong development.

Greek newspapers printed extensive stories about China's 60th anniversary, showing its

interest in China and the “new position of Beijing as a world superpower.”

The daily *Eleftherotypia* noted that “China demands a stronger international role,” which was expressed during the Beijing Olympics and boosted by its role in tackling the global financial crisis.

French daily *Le Figaro* said the massive parade in China shows the image of a country that is rising and that has decided to play a more significant role in the international community.

Media in Cuba, Finland, Russia, Cambodia and the Philippines also reported and hailed the celebration and achievements made by China during the past 60 years.



# People at 60

## Life of Chinese people reflects economic evolution within 60 years



**Longevity**

An elderly citizen is among the thousands of public safety volunteers nationwide who maintained law and order during National Day celebrations. Life expectancy in the country has risen from 41 years in 1949 to 73 today, and more seniors are choosing to engage in activities like volunteer work after retirement.



**Tourism**

Tourism revenues increased 25 percent year on year during the National Day holiday. The China Tourism Academy said the amount earned during the eight-day holiday is expected to top 100 billion yuan.



**Sports & arts**

A yoga exhibition in Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province, during the National Day holiday. As citizens' incomes have soared in the past 30 years – per capita GDP has grown tenfold from 1,365 yuan in 1979 – more and more people are engaging in sports and the arts in their spare time. IC Photos

# CHINA SHOW



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# Charity that earns money

Alibaba and Grameen to launch microfinance for startups



Jack Ma

By Huang Daohen

**"Money and wealth are two different concepts," Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba Group, told his 15,000 employees at the company's 10th anniversary earlier this month.**

**"If you have money but have not used it to elevate your own or other people's happiness, then you may very well only possess a lot of symbols and a mountain of very colorful pieces of paper."**

Ma is backing up his words with action. On September 24, Ma unveiled his plan with Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel-winning founder of Grameen Bank, to launch a program that provides micro-credit financial services to the poor for startup projects.

## Desperate for loans

Zhou Xiulian, a woman from a rural area of Sichuan Province, has recently become quite worried about her business. Zhou, 26, runs a duck factory and has been desperate for a loan to continue her business. She constantly updates her loan request at wokai.org, a lending Web site, but has so far come away frustrated.

Zhou is typical of most rural women in remote areas. When she was 18 she got married to a man of the same age in the village. The husband's family lived with them and put them in debt, so the young couple had to become migrant workers. Zhou said they had been to Guangzhou and Shenzhen becoming arriving in Beijing.

After four years, they managed to pay off their debt and were able to save a little money to start a duck business back in Sichuan. Zhou bought a number of ducks, but after three months, due to unpreventable circumstances, they were all dead.

Zhou had to return to Beijing to work, while her husband tried to get support and money to restart their business.

There may be hope for the couple now, with Alibaba joining Grameen Trust of Bangladesh to start the Grameen China initiative.

The loan project will provide microcredit financial services to the poor to launch startup businesses. Grameen China's initial focus will be in Sichuan, which is still recovering from a devastating earthquake last May, the company said.



Nobel-winning banker Muhammad Yunus first tried his venture in China in 1995. This time, he will cooperate with Alibaba.

CFP Photos

## The poor's bank to open

According to Alibaba, the company will donate \$5 million (34.1 million yuan) and technical support to help loan recipients eventually run their businesses online.

Grameen China will be a social business. Initially, it will establish two Grameen Microcredit Companies in Sichuan and Inner Mongolia, with multiple branches in each area. The branches will be staffed by local employees

is the oxygen to make entrepreneurial dreams come alive. By helping people make money, we are making money."

Although Grameen Trust has been active in China since 1995, this is the first time the Bangladesh company will directly implement a microcredit program in China.

"We are pleased to spread the Grameen Bank approach to help the poorest people by giving them microfinance to alleviate their pov-

**"It's not charity. It's business that can earn money and also help lift the poor out of poverty."**

erty through the creation of small businesses," said Yunus in a letter to *Beijing Today*.

Yunus said the partnership with Alibaba will help Grameen China use information technology. Alibaba's main site, Alibaba.com, provides a platform for small business owners to buy and sell everything from raw materials to iPods. The group also runs the country's top online payment platform and Taobao.com, a user auction and retail site.

"If we can make microcredit available to potential entrepreneurs in China, then that will make a big impact for the whole world," Yunus said.

**Microcredit will work**

The concept of lending small, unsecured amounts to the poor can be applied to China, said Zhao

Xiao, a pioneer of microfinance research and practice in China and also a professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

The business model, called microcredit or microfinance, could develop quickly in China with government support and benefit many poor people, Zhao said.

"It's not charity. It's business that can earn money and also help lift the poor out of poverty," he said.

In China, conventional banks have no interest in household credit in rural areas because of high repayment risks and operational costs. Thus, rural productivity has been hampered by a lack of access to reliable and affordable credit to purchase production tools.

Zhao said some pioneering institutions, mostly overseas organizations, have experimented with microcredit in China for 10 years, but without results.

"They are not sustainable because of policy and legal restrictions and insufficient funds," he said.

Currently, there are seven private microcredit companies in China that face the same problem, as they are only allowed to provide loans but cannot accept deposits.

Zhao said not allowing microcredit companies to take deposits would greatly hinder their development.

But still, microcredit would work if the government perfects a proper legal environment and supervision mechanism, Zhao added.

## Microfinance

Microfinance companies provide loans to small businesspeople who often cannot meet the strict credit requirements of large banks. Either these people do not have the capital or the cash to back the loan, or as the large banks argue, their credit needs are too small.

With banks out of the picture, microfinance steps into the role usually held by relatives and often predatory money lenders. Microfinance is most often associated with the developing world, but agencies have begun working in industrialized countries.

Grameen Bank, the world's first microfinance institution, was created in Bangladesh in 1983 by Mohammed Yunus, an economics professor who launched it to help alleviate rural poverty by providing much-needed funds to entrepreneurs. In 2006, Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. By 2008 Grameen Bank had lent \$7.6 billion (51.9 billion yuan).

Official statistics show that people in rural areas have less access to financial services than their urban counterparts. At present, 228 million rural households who need bank loans are unable to access them.



# Too early for animal protection law in China?



The law aims to end animal abuse in China.



Chang Jiwen

## Experts draft bill with an international face

Many Chinese people consider animals only as a "resource"; they are unaware of the pain animals can feel and are thus capable of untold cruelty.

Extreme cases reported by the domestic media include foxes that are skinned alive for their fur; bears farmed for their bile by maintaining open wounds in their bodies; and dogs clubbed or stoned to death in the name of "rabies prevention and population control."

In response, the government publicized last week a draft of the Animal Protection Law, which outlines the minimum standards, in various situations, for treating animals. The draft has been posted online for comments from the public.

The bill, drafted by a team of animal law experts and supported by several international animal welfare groups, includes provisions on how to care for pets and how farm animals should be raised, transported and slaughtered. It also details protective measures for captive wildlife and laboratory animals.

It likewise bans indiscriminate animal abuse, including dog-culling; violators face up to three years in jail.

This is the first time a Chinese bill has emphasized the concept of "animal welfare" in accordance with international norms and proposes punishment for those who maltreat animals.

The draft is merely a "consultation paper" for the reference of Chinese legislative bodies, says Chang Jiwen, head of the team that put together the bill and a law professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. "This is not real legislation but a non-governmental activity to promote animal protection legislation," he says.

Chang says lawmakers have shown great interest in the bill and many netizens have expressed support for it. Based on this response, Chang predicts the bill could become law in as little as 10 years.

## Rise of China's animal revolution

At present, Chinese law only provides for the protection of endangered species; there is no penalty for maltreating or killing animals outside this group.

But legal efforts have been

By Han Manman

News reports of the mass slaughtering of dogs or abuse of cats would be significantly reduced if the country's first animal welfare bill is passed, which would make animal maltreatment a punishable offense.

While most international NGOs applaud China's latest step in promoting animal welfare - a relatively new topic in the country - dissenting voices at home are growing louder, saying the law would not only be impractical but premature.



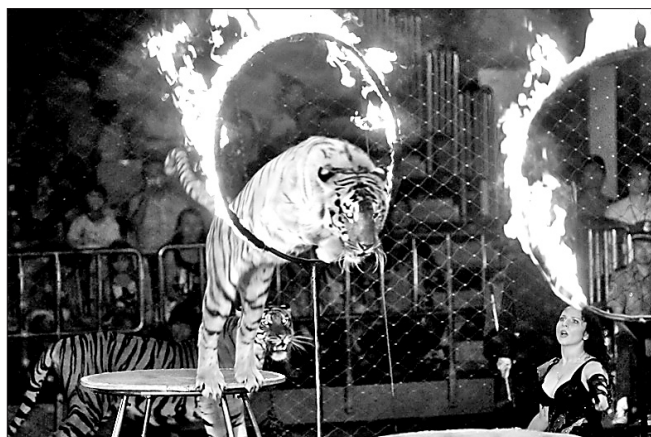
More and more Chinese people take part in volunteer work to promote awareness for animal welfare.

given momentum by society's growing consciousness for animal welfare. More and more volunteers are joining animal rescue organizations and promoting animal welfare to the public.

One of them is Candy Zhou.

the streets and speak to people about the science behind caring for animals.

"Many people have asked me how to join our group as a volunteer. They think what we're doing is meaningful," she says.



People who force animals to perform dangerous acts may also face punishment if the law is passed.

CFP Photos

Most weekends, she joins animal protection activities sponsored by the Association for Small Animal Protection in Beijing.

Zhou's work focuses on educating others in how to treat animals properly. Every spring and during holidays like Labor Day and National Day, she and other members of the association walk

Zhou says the association's volunteers now number more than a thousand.

## Doubters say the law not practical

As soon as the animal welfare bill was published, domestic critics emerged. Among their arguments was that it was not yet time

for China to have an advanced animal welfare law similar to those in Western countries and that it is going to be difficult for a country that lacks animal welfare consciousness to change its attitudes overnight.

The legislation is idealistic and not practical for China at present, says Wei Feng, a professor at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law. He says the bill has 182 items covering a variety of situations, something that is going to be difficult to implement.

Lawyer Fu Daqing says the bill has a noble purpose but it was a bit hasty from the viewpoint of criminal law.

Li Xiaoliang, a local resident, says China cannot copy Western laws because it faces unique challenges. He says it is going to be difficult making Chinese farmers understand the concept of animal welfare, such as preventing animals from feeling hunger and pain.

"In many cases, poor farmers have no intention of hurting animals, like not giving a dog shelter. But they just see animals as a tool for production. They believe humans and animals are on different levels, so it's hard for them to catch up to the thinking of people who regard animals as their friends

and believe animals are equal to human beings," Li says.

Chang, who helped draft the bill, disagrees with those reasons. "The draft law is realistic and practical," he says.

"It's different from Western laws. For example, we won't require owners to give dogs shelter, as most Chinese people cannot afford that. Only people who unnecessarily and intentionally abuse animals will be punished."

Chang admits that the country has a long way to go on animal welfare, but that things are unfolding positively. "I'm convinced that along with the development of people's awareness for animal welfare, laws and regulations in this respect will also become more sophisticated and comprehensive," he says.

## NGOs lend support, but say challenges await

On the opposite spectrum are many international NGOs that have hailed the bill.

"This is a significant step for China, not only for the millions of animals that suffer from abuse and cruelty, but also for the country's image as it moves toward progress and harmony," says Grace Ge Gabriel, Asia regional director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

"The cruel treatment of animals not only results in the suffering of the animals, but also in the degradation of society. Imagine what it does to children to witness these brutal acts and to grow up thinking it is appropriate to treat another living creature this way," she says.

The bill also received applause from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), which was consulted by Chang's team.

Paul Littlefair, a senior program manager at RSPCA, says the bill covers several of the most serious issues that have concerned the international animal welfare community for years.

"We have been working steadily there (China) to promote the principles of animal welfare since 1999 and finally saw the big improvement," he says. "The law is sending a clear message to every citizen: 'The way we treat animals matters.'"

But Littlefair is aware there are still battles ahead. Academics and politicians need to steer the bill through the legislative process, and when it becomes law, it needs to be consistently enforced, he says.

Chang sees the same thing. "The future is bright, but the path ahead will be tortuous," he says.



# China Open

## Big-time tennis hits the capital

### Tennis gala

More than 600,000 tennis fans are expected to attend the event, according to the organizers. Millions more across the country and worldwide are expected to view more than 150 hours of live coverage and broadcast feeds provided by CCTV-5, a tournament sponsor.

Sina.com, another tournament sponsor, is providing webcasts and real-time online and wireless Internet updates.

"We're always ready. This event has to be first-class, and it is," said Zhang Junhui, managing director of China Open.

China Open, formerly the Beijing Salem Open, is an annual professional tennis tournament held in the capital. The men's singles and doubles events were first held in 1993 as the ATP opened a series of new tournaments in Asia.

Zhang said the process has not always been smooth. In 1998, the tournament was dropped from the ATP tour calendar before being reinstated in 2004. This year, the tourney had made a huge leap, as Beijing has become one of 10 cities to host an ATP 500 Series event. The men's event has been upgraded to an ATP 500 Series event, while the women's event was upgraded to a Crown-Pearl tournament.

But Zhang said his committee's clear objective is to develop China Open into one of the world's top five tennis tournaments, along with Wimbledon, the US, French and Australian opens. "We are confident we will achieve this goal," he said.

### An independent business

Although China Open was organized by the General Administration of Sport of China and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, it is being treated as a "stand-alone" business deal.

Zhang said the Beijing municipal government gave the go-ahead for China Open in 2003, but unlike other tournaments in China, the event was an independent, market-oriented business venture from the beginning.

"We learned from the West to



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a backhand in a competition.

CFP Photo

set up a company to treat this not as a governmental affair, but as a business affair," Zhang said.

Zhang was referring to the event's partners: the Hong Kong-based TOM Group and the influential Beijing Youth Daily Group. In the beginning, TOM leased the rights to stage tournaments and owned a 49 percent share in the China Open company while the Beijing Youth Daily Group held a 51 percent share.

Later, the Beijing Youth Daily Group gained sole proprietorship of the China Open company.

"We didn't choose China; China was chosen by this moment in history," said Lincoln Venancio, managing director of Media Serv under TOM Group and once the China Open tournament director. "China today is one of the few countries with a major economy that has not had a truly major sporting event. It should have had one, and now it does."

During the 10-day event, hundreds of players will compete for cash and other prizes valued at more than \$4.5 million (30.7 million yuan).

"We cannot compare it to the grand slams at this stage, but we are

By Huang Daohen

Economic achievements do not usually quicken the pulse of those in sports, but try telling that to organizers of the China Open tennis tournament.

They know the eyes of the world – and not just the sports world – have been on them since tennis's most glamorous stars descended on October 2 on the capital's \$39 million (2.7 billion yuan), 17,400-seat National Tennis Center, which was the venue for Olympic tennis last summer.

heading in the right direction, and I don't think it's going to take long," Zhang said, adding that advanced ticket sales were very strong.

### Marketing and sponsorship

While China Open's future as a sporting and commercial event seems secure, the tournament is clearly also a means to other ends.

"After successfully hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing will host many more international sporting events. This event will become a logo for the city, like the 2008 Olympics," Zhang said.

We can now see that China Open is the country's biggest annual event and will also become the biggest in Asia, he said.

A veteran of 10 years of sports marketing, Zhang said Beijing has picked the right time and the right event to make a serious move in the world of high-level sports.

"I see a strong, viable financial future for sports marketing in China because sport right now occupies a very small percentage of the country's GDP. It's just too low," Zhang said. "China has great athletes, as you saw at the past Olympic Games, but it has not had

a platform to support the advertisers that, in turn, support the development of sports like tennis."

Zhang said China Open gives advertisers that platform, and they are responding.

"We sponsor the grand slams

and several other ATP tennis events, so the decision to support the China Open was not too difficult," said Tony Tai, marketing manager for Mercedes-Benz Greater China. "I had to explain why tennis and why now, but Benz quickly realized this was a good opportunity for us."

This year, Sina.com, the country's most popular Web portal, signed a sponsorship deal to become China Open's exclusive online and wireless Internet provider. According to the agreement, Sina will invest up to 100 million yuan to promote this year's joint WTA and ATP tour.

However, it's not just the stars of the game and sponsorships that Zhang and Beijing tennis authorities have in mind.

"Tennis in China is at a point very similar to where it was in the US in the 1970s when it boomed," Zhang said. "Unlike golf, tennis courts don't take up too much urban space. It's a healthy sport and is supportive of a healthy lifestyle."

"Tennis is more than a sport in China; it is a social phenomenon, a symbol of aspiration."

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## Withdraw from tournament? Not this year

By Wang Yu

"Due to an injury, I cannot participate. It is such a shame to have to withdraw."

This has been a familiar refrain from would-be participants in the China Open these past five years. But after a considerable upgrade to the event, things are different this time around.

All the men's players in this year's China Open are ranked in the ATP Tour's top 50. Novak Djokovic and Andy Roddick, both top-10 players and Grand Slam winners, were slated to appear as of press time, along with 18 of the world's top 30. Two previous China Open winners, Marat Safin of Russia and Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, are among the lower-ranked players in the field.

There are several big names

on the women's side as well, like Venus and Serena Williams, world's No. 1 Dinara Safina and Elena Dementieva. Li Na, seeded 19th in the tourney, is the highest ranked Chinese player in the field. She will also compete alongside Zheng Jie for the doubles title.

China Open used to be considered a low-level event that awards only 175 tour points to the winner. A low-level tournament usually does not attract the world's top players. The timing of previous tournaments had also put organizers in a pinch – it used to be held in September, which was too close to the conclusion of the US Open. Lots of top players often chose to rest rather than travel. Last year, no-shows included Safina, then the third-ranked player in the world.

In years past, some players

have also given the impression of not caring, as when Martina Hingis, who lost to Peng Shuai in the second round in 2007, was seen the next day with her mother on the Great Wall.

The did-not-participate list also includes Carlos Moya in 2004, Lindsay Davenport and Maria Sharapova in 2005, Rafael Nadal and Nikolay Davydenko in 2006, and Justine Henin in 2007.

Things are different this year. With more than 300 tennis players from 47 countries competing this, China Open has become the largest tennis tournament in Asia. Although this young tournament lacks tradition and reputation, this year's event promises to be a step in the right direction for the development of the sport in China.



# Nigerian teenage girl puts a bold front on cancer

By Venus Lee

Khaltum Ummi Yadam, 16, a sophomore high school student at Beanstalk International Bilingual School, lost a leg to bone cancer two years ago. Far from being defeated by the disease, Yadam has touched everyone around her with her optimism and self-confidence.

## Life-defining knee pain

You can say that Yadam has led an extraordinary life. At 13, she was diagnosed with bone cancer on her left knee. A series of hospital visits and treatments followed.

"In March 2006, I felt a mild pain in my knee, but I ignored it. I thought the pain was caused by overexercising because I ran a lot," Yadam said.

A bone specialist in her hometown of Plateau State, Jos, Nigeria, misdiagnosed her condition as arthritis; treatment was ineffective and her pain worsened. She was moved to another hospital where she requested an X-ray. It showed abnormalities on her knee bone, which another doctor diagnosed as osteomyelitis – a rare bone infection.

She was treated with strong doses of antibiotics. Again, the treatment failed and her knee swelled with pain. "I was then referred to an orthopedist who suspected I had cancer," Yadam said. The pain got so bad at one point she could only get around with crutches.

A biopsy confirmed she had osteosarcoma – the most common type of bone cancer, which largely strikes teenagers and young adults. "I was so uninformed about cancer because my parents were worried I wouldn't bear hearing the bad news. But when I found out, I was glad the cause of my pain was identified. The doctors could already treat me with the right medicine and I would be back on my feet in no time," she said.

Things did not turn out that way. The orthopedist told her parents the only treatment available in Nigeria for her condition was

amputation. Her parents rejected the suggestion and they turned to traditional medicine. "I was taken to various traditional medicine specialists over a period of three months, but all their efforts were fruitless," she said.

## Painful choices

Yadam also underwent treatment in Angola when her father, a government minister, was assigned to work in the southern African nation. By then Yadam's knee had developed a pathological fracture. Angolan doctors suggested treatment abroad where there would be more advanced technology.

One of her father's friends who lived in China encouraged her family to send Yadam here. On March 2007, together with her mother, Yadam came to Beijing and was admitted to Jishuitan Hospital. Chinese doctors suggested four cycles of chemotherapy before she would undergo knee replacement surgery.



Yadam receives treatment in a hospital in Beijing.

During chemotherapy, the girl lost all her hair and was constantly sick. But the treatment shrunk the tumor and greatly reduced her pain.

Two months later, she was back on her feet following the knee surgery. But her joy did not last long. She developed an infection and needed to have a second



Yadam (middle) with her classmates

Photos provided by Weng Xiaohong

and we tried to avoid amputation right from the start, but I had to face it."

Yadam will never forget the fateful day: December 27, 2007. She spent a very sad New Year in the hospital thinking, "How am I ever going to be normal again?" No new high heels or skirts, no running. Life is going to suck," she said.

## Looking at the bright side

Yadam decided she would not let cancer defeat her. She accepted the loss of her left leg and tried to look at the positive aspects of her life. "I still had my family and friends. There are people who would do anything to be in my position," she said.

Yadam learned to walk with the aid of a prosthetic leg. She attends school, gets high grades and is an inspiration to her

teachers and classmates. "She is very independent, confident and optimistic. She has never asked help from me," Phil Chao, her math teacher, said.

A fellow student, Elizabeth Rhone, said: "She acts as normal as we do ... She is very warm-hearted and easygoing. She has so much zeal to do charity work at an old people's home during her spare time."

Yadam appreciated her life and the people around her more after the amputation. She said it changed her entire outlook on life.

"To all the other cancer patients and disabled people out there, live life to the fullest. Make a list of things you want to do every day and try to achieve them. Although life can be depressing sometimes, you've got to learn to look at the bright side of things," she said.



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# Beijing IFC to perform romantic-comic opera



The International Festival Chorus is known for its high-quality performances. Photo provided by The International Festival Chorus

By Annie Wei

The International Festival Chorus (IFC) returns to its roots with a performance of W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* at The Forbidden City Concert Hall next Saturday.

After a performance of *Pirates* at the Western Academy of Beijing in 2001, the idea was born to form an international group of amateur musicians. A few months later, the IFC held its inaugural concert of Mozart's *Requiem* at a sold-out Forbidden City Concert Hall.

The IFC comprises singers from more than 20 countries and a group of at least 100 Beijing-based talents.

*Pirates* is a slight departure from the choir's usual musical ensemble.

The group usually performs German, Latin, English and other foreign pieces. But because of the grim world economic situation, the show's producers thought Beijing

audiences needed something lighter, such as a romantic-comic opera.

"This music is purely for pleasure," said IFC conductor Nick Smith, "an evening of pretty tunes and effective orchestrations."

To sympathize with people who have suffered in the credit crunch, the choir will stage *Pirates* with minimal costume and stage design.

Some of the principal male roles will be portrayed by actors to be flown in from London, while all of the female roles will be played by Beijing-based IFC members. Accompanying the chorus are some of Beijing's finest musicians in the Peking Sinfonietta (formerly Xinya Kongqi Chamber Orchestra), led by violinist Jin Haiyin.

## About the Pirates

*The Pirates of Penzance*, or "The Slave of Duty," was the fifth collaboration between Englishmen W.S. Gilbert, a librettist, and Arthur Sullivan, a musical composer. The

opera, which debuted in New York in 1879, tells the story of Frederic, who is apprenticed to a band of pirates after his nursemaid, Ruth, who is hard of hearing, misheard his father's instructions to apprentice him to a ship's "pilot."

Frederic meets Mabel, daughter of Major-General Stanley, and the two fall passionately in love. But like all good comedies, there is a twist: Frederic finds out that his real birthday falls on February 29, meaning he only "ages" every four years. The Pirate King informs him that his apprenticeship will last until he turns 21; he will not be released from his bond until he is 63 years old. Mabel agrees to wait for him.

## The Pirates of Penzance

Where: The Forbidden City Concert Hall, Dongcheng District

When: October 17, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6559 8285

Cost: Tickets start at 50 yuan

## Event

### Xuanwu Hutong and courtyard houses pedicab tour

Check out old Beijing's lanes, courtyards, kindergartens and vegetable markets. Chat with Beijingers in their homes, learn the meaning of courtyard architectural symbols and find out how local life has changed in recent years.

Where: China Culture center, Kent Centre, A201 Anjialou, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 9, 2-4:30 pm

Tel: 6432 9341

### The Taming of the Shrew ballet

The Shakespearean comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* is the last of John Cranko's triad of full-length works in which he redefined the genre of the narrative ballet. The ballet tells through subtle gestures Petruchio's taming of Katherina while keeping Shakespeare's wit and melodic prose.

Cranko, from South Africa, went straight to the point in describing his choreographic structure centered on three pas de deux: "The entire plot revolves around a man and a woman and their relationship with each other. First, she is the stronger one, he the suitor; in the second, he is the stronger one, she is his wife. At the end, they find a balance and are truly in love."

Where: National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

When: October 9, 7:30-9 pm

Tel: 6417 7845

### Hike at Sihetang

Passing beneath tall cliffs, follow the path of White River as it winds through mountains in Miyun District. The area contains stretches of Ming Dynasty Great Wall and is relatively unpopulated, which makes it an excellent scenic hike that will fill your lungs with fresh air.

Where: Beijing Hikers, Room 1907, Building 107 Jiangfu Jiayuan, Xiaochengzhuang, East Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 10 (call for exact time)

Tel: 5137 4906

Cost: 300 yuan

(By Wei Ying)

# NGO teaches basketball to migrant girls



Chitra A. Nair, an Indian volunteer, teaching basketball at a migrants school.

Photo provided by CAI

By Venus Lee

Six volunteers from CAI, an NGO that provides art and sports training to underprivileged children, concluded a basketball workshop in Dongba Shiyan School, Chaoyang District, last Saturday.

The all-female group of 24 teenagers from migrant workers' families was taught the sport's basic skills – dribbling, passing and shooting – as well as its rules. The eight-week training program included games to build teamwork, trust, confidence and communication skills.

At the end of the workshop, the students were asked to write a journal entry about their experience and impressions of the program. These help trainers keep track of the children's development and are used to evaluate the training's impact.

One of the participants, Yuan Siqu, 12, did not care about basketball before she joined the workshop. "But since I became a basketball team member under CAI's training project, I fell in love with the sport," she said. "The teachers from CAI are very charming, and their lively teaching methods make the training fun."

Zhu Minghui, 13, was interested in

the sport but had little chance to learn it because it was regarded as a "boy's game," and players she knew refused to allow females to join them. "Fortunately, CAI's project was only for girls," she said. "I learned not only technical skills but also how to work with teammates."

By conducting basketball workshops exclusively for girls, CAI seeks to reduce gender inequality that is more acutely felt by the underprivileged. "The program has so far been very successful, and there is strong demand from migrants schools," said Ellen Luo, the NGO's program coordinator.

Yang Qin, Dongba Shiyan School's principal, said the project has brought a lot of benefits to their students. "Most migrant workers' children have little chance to interact with the outside world compared with city children," he said. "CAI's volunteers not only bring joy to the children but also teach them how to face difficulties and develop a positive outlook on life through sports and games. What's more, they help improve our teachers' skills through exchanges."

Due to lack of funds, the physical edu-

cation program of schools for migrant workers' children is poor. "Most PE teachers in such schools have never received professional training, so they don't know how to teach students effectively. They usually only do simple exercises like running, jumping and skipping rope in physical education class," said Xu Weixu, 31, a CAI volunteer from Tsinghua University.

CAI's team sports program also aims to teach students integrity, loyalty, social responsibility and moral values, as well as develop their leadership potential, communication skills and a positive self-image. "These girls are sharp and are quick learners, and they are more optimistic than we imagined," said Chitra A. Nair, 46, an Indian volunteer.

CAI means "talent" in Chinese. It is funded by its parent organization, the Promise Foundation, a US-based charity. Since last autumn, CAI has conducted girls' basketball workshops at four migrant schools in Chaoyang District – Dongba Xinli, Dongba Shiyan, Lantian Shiyan and Yimin schools. Thus far, more than a hundred girls from migrant worker families have participated.



# South Railway Station opens bus hub to improve access



Traffic signs are available underground at the South Railway Station.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

Beijing South Railway Station may be known as Asia's largest train station, but it has also gained notoriety for not being easily accessible.

The situation is expected to improve after the National Day holiday when 20 bus lines, including bus 20, 84, 102, 106, 203 and 458,

will begin servicing the station.

According to the Beijing Municipal Committee of Transportation, the bus lines will move their departure hub from Yongdingmen to Beijing South Railway's north square.

The bus hub has five bus shelters. The first is exclusively for tourist buses. Bus 20 and 203

go toward Beijingzhan (Beijing Railway Station) near the CBD area. Bus 458 heads for Lugouqiao; Bus 106 to the Dongzhimen area; and bus 102 and 84 to the Beijing Zoo and Beitucheng (near the Olympic Park), respectively. There is also a night bus service, Bus 208.

From the train station's north

exit, it will take passengers less than two minutes to reach the bus hub. There are clear signs directing people to buses, taxi queues and an entrance to the recently opened Subway Line 4 on Beijing South Railway's ground floor.

Five new parking spaces for bicycles will soon open outside the train station.

## Splendid iron sculpture show

The Beijing Art & Craft Group exhibited their new iron sculptures, on display until mid-October. The work is about 56 Chinese minorities dancing to the background of 29 world culture heritage sites. Where: Beijing Art & Craft Group building, 200 Wangfujing Avenue, Dongcheng District  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm  
Tel: 6528 9328

CFP Photo



### ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

Friends are visiting Beijing this month and I want to take them to the Bird's Nest. Is there a number I can call for information like ticket prices and visiting hours?

The Bird's Nest hotline is 8437 3008, which offers information on performances, wheelchair rentals and how to get there. It is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm, and tickets cost 50 yuan. Call before you go because it might be closed on special occasions.

I have two small pet rabbits. One is sick, so I took it to a local veterinarian. The veterinarian prescribed some medicine, but the rabbit has refused to eat the tablet. Do you have any suggestions?

It is difficult to feed rabbits medicine because they refuse to eat anything they do not like. If you force them, they will just throw it up later. Try chopping up the tablet and diluting it in your pet's drinking water.

Can you recommend a good place for traditional Chinese massage? I do not want to go to spas that cater to highly paid expats or to seedy shops. I'm looking for a place with skilled specialists that charge reasonably.

Some of *Beijing Today's* staff recommend a place with blind massagists you might want to check out. It charges 35 yuan for half an hour's service.

**Dahuole Mangren Anmo**

Where: Room 4-1, Building 2, Baijiazhuang Dong Li (opposite the alley leading to the Beijing Youth Daily building), Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 11 pm

Tel: 6582 8650

(By Wei Ying)

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Suojia Village, 2005



Bridge in Italy, 2008



The Laid-off Workers, 2006



Liu Bolin's camouflage art tries to show the relationship between people and the environment.

# Invisible man

By Zhang Dongya

What kind of superpower would you choose if you were endowed one? Liu Bolin chooses to disappear!

Liu, 37, is called "the real-life invisible man." He hides in various surroundings, including pulled-down houses, walls of police and walls with decades-old slogans. Last year, he also tried disappearing in places overseas, like telephone booths in London and the Colosseum in Rome.

"I try to display the relationship between people and the environment we live in," Liu said.

Despite standing there without uttering a word, people can feel his silent power, and as a result they reflect on their surroundings and rebel against constraints.

## Inspiration from Suojia Village

Liu's first artwork, also his most famous piece, was created in 2005 in Suojia Village at a time of tumultuous change.

Suojia, a remote village in Chaoyang District, became home to Beijing's first community specifically built for artists in 2005. It established the International Arts Camp and attracted more than 100 artists from Beijing and other provinces, along with dozens of artists from overseas, including the US, France and Japan.

Just after the community was established, however, Suojia was forced to remove Art Camp due to "illegal occupation of land." Artists presented petitions and protests to no avail. The fledgling community was no more by the end of the year.

Liu arrived at Suojia in May 2005 with high expectations after years of difficulties and setbacks. After studying sculpture in his hometown in Shandong Province in 1995, he taught for four years. In 1999, he enrolled in postgraduate studies at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing, the top art academy in the country. But after graduation, Liu still failed to find a proper job. He returned to his hometown to continue teaching. Then in 2005, he got an opportunity to be an assistant for his CAFA tutor in Suojia.

It was not long after he arrived that the art community was demolished. His tutor was abroad when this happened.

"I was filled with indignation," Liu said. He used those days to create his first "invisible" artwork – he called it *Suojia Village*.

He painted himself in the same color as the pulled-down walls and tried blending into the demolished areas.

"I wanted to disappear!" he said. "I started to hide myself, which can be taken as a sort of self-defense mechanism because I think it was better than being overlooked. It also represented my helpless mood. Just like having a dream, I achieved some balance in my heart after finishing the artwork."

## Focus on people and surroundings

Liu named his first series of "invisible" works "Urban Camouflage," and in later years he continued to enrich the series with new surroundings.

An event called "Demolition, Demolition! Demolition?" started by artists in Suojia Village International Art Camp used Liu's *Suojia Village* on a poster. This event helped Liu's confidence and faith in art.

He opened his own studio in 2006 and continued to create camouflage artwork. "I began to focus on the relationship between people and their surroundings," he said. "During the process of making art, I recorded the country's history and also captured reality."

Liu chose walls with slogans from different time periods and tried to blend into them. Liu said slogans in China played a special role during different eras in history. "On one hand, they reflect a certain period of time; on the other, they have a very big influence on people's lives – we are restrained and controlled by them," he said.

One piece of artwork called *The Laid-off Workers* caught the most attention in 2006. It was set in a desolate factory in 798 Art District, with six factory workers who had been laid off

"camouflaged" there.

"They were in tears when they told me what they experienced, which moved me very much," Liu said. "The six workers camouflaged in the factory tell of changing times and their fates."

This piece of work, along with *Suojia Village*, became Liu's most successful works and brought him his first income from art.

In late 2006, a gallery curator from the US went to Liu's studio and could not decide which one to buy. He finally bought both. Henceforth, Liu's works won great attention and gained him considerable money.

In 2008, he turned his sights to international cities to capture their features. In London, he camouflaged himself in telephone booths in the street; in Rome, he hid in the ancient Colosseum.

## Possibilities of art based on life

Liu's alternative artwork is tagged as "performance art."

"I do not reject any possibility of art," Liu said. "In China, if artists use their bodies in their work, then it will be classified as 'performance art.' But I think my work is much more like stage photography because the final result is a photograph."

In his camouflage works, he has to stand still for hours. Most of the time, it takes him about five hours to be painted and photographed. The hardest piece took him 10 hours, which made his body stiff.

In the beginning, he asked friends to help paint and photograph. Now, he employs assistants, usually art students.

"In the beginning, artists were too poor to buy materials," Liu said. "What they could use were their bodies, and that was how performance art was born."

In the 1990s, most artists in China could not make money from their craft. They pursued art as an ideal but were poor as beggars. Liu called it "the era of living on ideals."

"In 2001, if I had 15,000 yuan in hand, I would spend 10,000 to hold an exhibition," he said.

By 2005, things had changed. When Liu went to Beijing, the market had opened for Chinese artists, who began to profit from their work.

In addition to the camouflage series, Liu has also developed other forms of artwork, including sculptures and new installations that depict things like blackboard news, a traditional Chinese way of putting up notices in schools and communities.

In September, Liu's newest exhibition, "Getting Accustomed to Impermanence," was held in Shanghai. In one piece of work, a normal body generates nine different individuals – some frenzied, some reserved and some frightened – which represent different aspects of people. "It is a rediscovery of the same theme in the camouflage series, since it also records how our fast-developed society affects people," Liu said.

Liu is currently working on the theme of drunk driving. "In modern society, traffic accidents kill more people than war," he said. He will drive a car and make drawings by braking on sandy land, then take photographs from the air.

"Modern art is showing its inclusiveness and diversification," Liu said. "No matter the categories and forms, artists should create works based on life and make people think. That is the basic responsibility for all of us."



# man in real life

s, the hands  
phone booths  
on their

13  
Center stage



Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY

Photos provided by Liu Bolin

Telephone Booth in London, 2008



# A historic tennis match under the shadow of war

By Charles Zhu

No tennis match could have been so dramatic, so civilized and so musically rhythmic as the Budge-Cramm encounter on noble Wimbledon court on July 20, 1937. Marshall Jon Fisher, who has written for *Harper's* and *The Atlantic*, tells the story of this historic last match of the Davis Cup semifinal between Don Budge, an American ranked No. 1 in the world, and Baron Gottfried von Cramm, a German ranked No. 2, in his book *A Terrible Splendor: Three Extraordinary Men, A World Poised for War, and the Greatest Tennis Match Ever Played* (321pp, Crown, \$25).

"On this still-peaceful English summer day, the swastika is flying high over Center Court, along with the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes," writes Fisher. "Nazi officials are sipping tea with the queen in the Royal Box."

The occasion was the Davis Cup Interzone Final between Budge, 22, a lanky redheaded son of a truck driver from Oakland, California, with a terrific serve and a lethal backhand, and Cramm, 28, "the very embodiment of style, grace, and sportsmanship," with a beautiful game reminiscent of chamber music. Cramm took the first two sets, Budge snatched the next two, and as the two played on into the London twilight, the capacity crowd of 14,000 on the bleachers came to see that something extraordinary was happening. The two figures in white began to set a rhythm of something more befitting a ballet than a game where you hit a ball. People stopped asking other people to sit



down. The umpire gave up stopping the game to beg for silence during rallies.

Each player hit twice as many winners as errors, and the match came to a close when Budge hit a spectacular running, passing shot. Only the Wimbledon encounter between Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer last summer could compare in intensity and drama. The British crowd forgot its reserved nature and stood on benches and made the "deep kind of roar" that "does not belong on any tennis court." The US team captain later said, "No man, living or dead, could have beaten either man that day." "I never played better," Budge liked to say, "and I never played anyone as good as Cramm that day."

Tennis has seen plenty of great matches since, but none has had the

extra-athletic drama of the Budge-Cramm affair overshadowed by an imminent war.

Fisher skillfully discusses such themes as war and peace, love and death, sports and savagery in his book. He juxtaposes the scene of Budge and Cramm battling away on Center Court with details about the fuming conflicts of antagonistic forces gathering around them.

Well-groomed in a castle in the foothills of the Seven Mountains, Cramm, a "gallant" and "gracious" man revered for his sportsmanship, inherited aristocratic contempt for Hitler's upstarts. He was Germany's second most celebrated athlete, just behind the boxer Max Schmeling. He was a homosexual who had fallen in love with a young Jewish actor. Hitler's Germany would disregard this so long as he kept winning his matches. As he confessed to his coach, bill Tilden, "I'm playing for my life." Not long after the match, the Nazi regime imprisoned him for "moral delinquency." He was sent to the Russian front, where he contracted frostbite in both legs. After the war, he revived his tennis career and then settled down to a cotton importing business, refusing to immigrate to the US even if he was married to Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton.

Cramm had led a life of charm and sangfroid until November 1976, when his car, en route from Alexandria to Cairo, was struck by a military truck. "Gottfried, whom no one could remember ever being ill, hated hospitals," writes Fisher, "and had sworn he would never die in one. He did not, passing away in the ambulance on the way." Was it fateful that Budge, a quarter century later, died of injuries from a car wreck as well? He might have been savoring the memory of that wonderful July meeting on Center Court until his very end.

## Story of the birthplace of rural reform

By He Jianwei

In 1978, 18 farmers from Xiaogang village in east Anhui Province signed a secret agreement to divide communally owned farmland into individual pieces called household contracts. It inadvertently lit the torch for China's rural reform.

In 2008, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of China's economic reforms, authors Chen Guidi and Wu Chuntao spent half a year in Xiaogang and uncovered the unknown history of this small village. Last month, they published their investigations in the book *Story of Xiaogang Village* (321pp, Huawen Publisher, 32 yuan).

Before 1978, the village was infamous for its poverty. Every resident received only 50 kilograms of grain every year, forcing many to roam the countryside begging after each harvest. One reason for this was the system of people's communes, or collective land ownership. The production team decided all matters regarding the land, so farmers had little incentive to work hard and good harvests weren't expected.

On a night in December 1978, all 18 of Xiaogang's households met after dark in the biggest house in the village. After a short discussion, they signed or put their thumbprints on a 79-character document agreeing to divide

the commune's land into family plots.

In 1979, the village's grain output increased to 90,000 kilograms, roughly equal to the aggregation of all yields in the previous 20 years. The grain the village delivered to the government was seven times the fixed quota. Per capita annual income reached 400 yuan, about 18 times higher than the previous year.

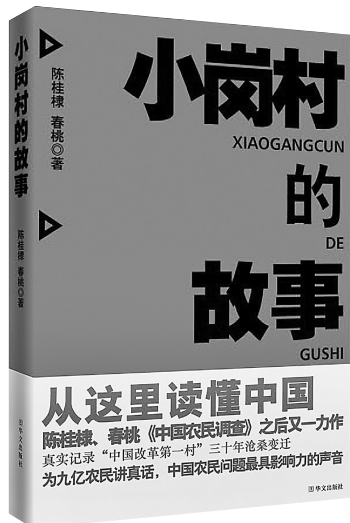
Neighboring villages copied Xiaogang's reform. The central government gave its approval for the trial in 1980.

The household contract responsibility system was popularized nationwide four years later, which started rural reform. And Xiaogang was regarded as the "No. 1 Village of China's Reform."

The book looks at the history of how rural reform started in Xiaogang and the difficulties of popularizing the movement nationwide through interviews with those 18 villagers.

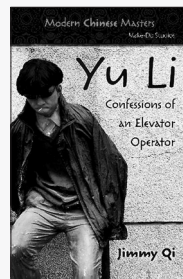
Despite great improvements in their standard of living, the residents of Xiaogang are still far from wealthy. Since the 1990s, rural areas have lost huge amounts of resources and many young people started heading to cities to become migrant workers.

The book also lets readers think about the social problems of rural reform and ask why Xiaogang cannot recreate its splendid history.



## Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.



**Yu Li: Confessions of an Elevator Operator**

By Jimmy Qi, 84pp, Make-Do Productions, \$12.95

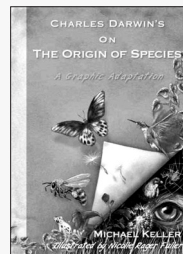
Yu Li is an inspector at a fake wine distillery in a small town in Hebei Province without any tall buildings. After he is fired for drinking the wine during inspections, Yu manages to land another job as an elevator operator in a luxury apartment building in far-off Beijing. The apartment building is home to New China's winners: celebrities, the new rich and big-shot officials. Misadventures abound as Yu struggles to adjust to the confusion of city life and, above all, fights to subdue the "nuclear weapon" in his pants.



**Mrs. West's Hats**

By Anthony Gorman and Helen Couchman, 84pp, Soloshow Publishing, \$10.99

A thoughtful, quiet meditation on the life of Couchman's grandmother, a remarkable lady and the owner of a number of extravagant hats.



**Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species: A Graphic Adaptation**

By Michael Keller, illustrated by Nicolle Rager Fuller, 192pp, Rodale Books, \$19.99

Author Michael Keller and illustrator Nicolle Rager Fuller introduce a new generation of readers to Darwin's original text, including sections about his pioneering research, the public's initial reception of his book, his correspondence with other leading scientists, as well as recent breakthroughs in evolutionary theory. This riveting, beautifully rendered adaptation breathes new life into Darwin's seminal and still-polarizing work.

(By He Jianwei)



# Bringing the world of Transformers into reality

By Jin Zhu

After the film *Transformers 2* opened across the country and became a box office success, Beijing held an exhibition showcasing these changeable toys in July.

All toys on display were from individual collectors. A model of Optimus Prime that stood nearly 5 meters high and weighed 300 kilograms attracted the most attention.

Few knew that this model was made by Sun Peng, a 26-year-old Transformers fan who took three months to assemble the Autobots leader out of cellular plastic, angled steel and bearings.

## A childhood dream

Sun was a typical Transformers fan. Anyone entering his house would immediately see a large cabinet occupying an entire wall and displaying his collection of models.

Like many Transformers lovers, the images are forever ingrained in Sun's mind. "It was not only a sign of sweet childhood, but also represented a dream," he said.

From 1984 to 1992, toy makers in the US and Japan produced more than 300 kinds of transformer toys. In 1987, the cartoon *Transformers* was introduced into China and popularized among children.

The toys, especially the ones called "Generation 1" (G1), quickly dominated the Chinese market. However, the prices were relatively high, too much so for the ordinary family.

"An original Optimus Prime toy cost 140 yuan, which just about required a month of my dad's salary to pay," Sun said. "Many children could only look at the toys displayed in shops, and I was one of them."

Sun said the two dreams he had when he was a child were both related to Transformers. "One was to have all kinds of transformer toys occupy the entire room," he said. "The other was to be a toy designer, specifically for general transformers."

## Years of collecting

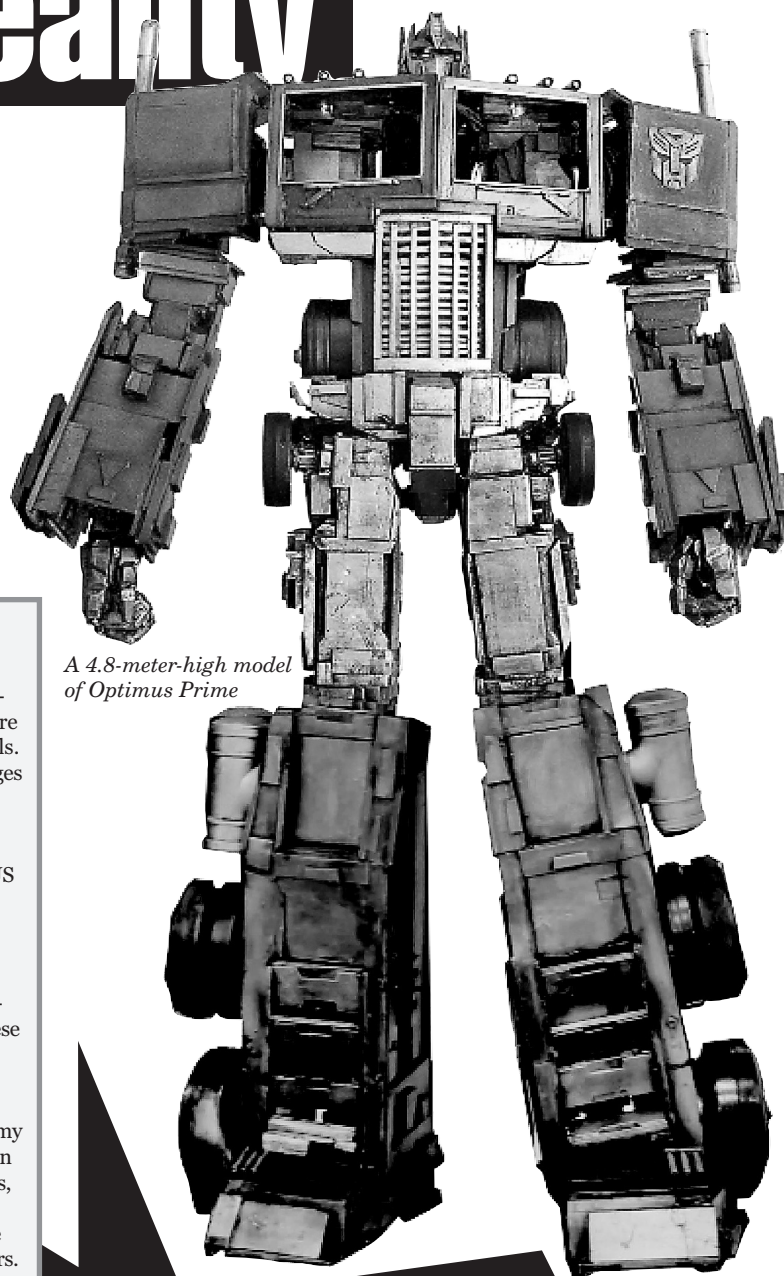
Sun's collection got started while he was studying at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts as a graphic design major, using a monthly allowance his parents gave him.

At that time, as long as he was free, he would go to the toy street around the Drum and Bell Tower. "Not all transformers are my favorites," he said. "Actually, my collections are mainly of the G1 series produced in 1984, the Transformers Masterpiece series, and the models that come from the Transformers movie."

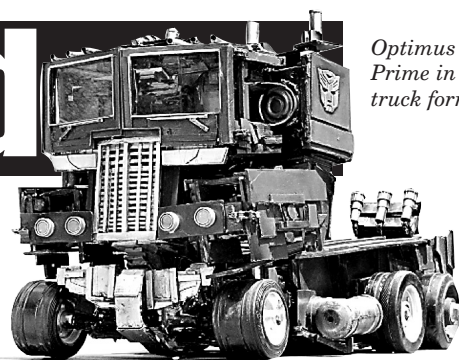
Sun has spent about 30,000 yuan to accumulate hundreds of transformer toys.

"In the first two years, I really lived a hard life since two-thirds of my living expenses were used for buying the toys," he said. "Instant noodles and steamed buns were usually my diet."

"It was probably the desire to relive memories from my childhood. Since I could not have the toys at that time, I got a satisfying and happy feeling whenever I bought it, which is why I kept collecting."



A 4.8-meter-high model of Optimus Prime



Optimus Prime in truck form

Sun Peng brings the world of Transformers into reality with his model.



Upper body of the Optimus Prime model

Photos provided by Chang Lei

## Famous for manual models

Unlike many collectors who keep their transformers in their original boxes, Sun prefers to fiddle with his and share them with others.

Gradually, he felt dissatisfied with some of his collections, especially as his studies in graphic design exposed to him his toys' imperfections. "I found places where there could be improvements," Sun said.

Making changes to his toys brought Sun a lot of enjoyment. "Recoloring the body, lengthening the leg, thickening the shoulder - my work became more and more bold," he said.

"Optimus Prime is a favorite for many boys," he said. "As a result, I hoped I could create it once I had sufficient skills."

Sun put his idea into practice in 2007 when he was a senior in college. "When a 2.3-meter-tall model appeared in the film *Transformers*, I understood the value of my design and decided to continue," Sun said.

This year, Sun decided to make

another model of Optimus Prime and hoped to finish before *Transformers 2* came out.

Sun paid numerous visits to markets beginning in March to search for building materials and automotive parts.

"I visited more than 30 automotive parts shops in Beijing to find six tires of the same size and build as those that appeared in the film," he said.

Sun said although the image of Optimus Prime in the film is different from its G1 image, it is more like a living thing rather than a simple machine.

Compared with previous works, it was more difficult this time, Sun said. He had to divide the model into five parts, then finish each part separately due to space limitations.

"In total, there were five parts with 30 pieces each," he said. "I eyeballed all the sizes. It was a big challenge for me because I had to make sure every part was proportional."

Another difficulty was in deciding where the center of the model should be.

"It should be on the legs, a little higher than the knee and flush with the hands," Sun said. "Meanwhile, I enlarged the contact area of his feet to ensure the model's stability and safety."

Sun said although the model was hard to make, he was very proud of the end result, when it stood 4.8 meters tall and weighed 300 kilograms.

Sun has made some money from his models, too. He sold two models last year for 10,000 yuan each, he said. "Besides that, many cinemas, supermarkets and shopping malls usually rent the models when they host commercial activities."

Sun said though the animation industry has not shown promise of a bright future in China up until now, there is ample opportunity for its growth as young people who have the same fancy as him mature in the next five to 10 years.

"Now, my greatest wish is to make a model of Optimus Prime that is 9.1 meters high, which would make it the same height as the robot in the film," Sun said.



# Excitement under your nose

## Shops and restaurants around Wanda Plaza



All-chocolate cake, 140-560 yuan  
Photo by Huang Xiao

### Awfully Chocolate

By Huang Xiao

Even if you can resist the temptation of chocolate's dark color and sweet taste, as soon as you try the goodies at this store, you will become addicted to it.

Awfully Chocolate makes chocolate cakes, available in four sizes. Its specialty is the dark chocolate-flavored all-chocolate cake (140-560 yuan). Another customer favorite is chocolate banana cake (170-680 yuan), which has two layers of fresh bananas. The store does not sell its cakes per slice, but it offers ice cream if you are stopping by after a meal.

If you are tired of looking at the same color and flavor of moon cakes around town, why not try the store's chocolate crust-covered moon cake

(128 yuan for a box).

Founded in Singapore and with franchises across Asia, Awfully Chocolate is guided by the philosophy, "absolutely only chocolate cakes."

The store's interior is white and sparsely decorated, as if to say, The cakes are the stars; everything else is secondary.

To keep its cakes fresh, Awfully Chocolate bakes a limited number of them each day, so get there early to grab one. The staff suggests ordering two days ahead.

#### Awfully Chocolate

Where: Room 1-08, Building 2, Wanda Plaza, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 9 pm

Tel: 5820 5856

By Annie Wei

In just two years, the area around Wanda Plaza has turned from a trash-ridden corner of Chaoyang District to a gleaming part of CBD, housing thousands of companies, a creative zone, high-end shopping malls and first-class cinemas.

To help us navigate through the shops and restaurants in the area, *Beijing Today* turned to Huang Xiao, a 27-year-old shopping and food fanatic who works there.



At Wayne's & Michelle

Photo by Huang Xiao

### Koto

By Huang Xiao

No wonder Koto is always busy: men are as eager as women to visit this warehouse-looking shop. It is the epitome of a creative boutique with its quirky collection of office supplies, household items and toys. Even window shoppers will have a fun and rewarding experience.

Do not be shy about asking the sales staff for help, although nothing can be more enjoyable than picking up an item, figuring out how it works and what it is supposed to do.

Women will have a hard time taking their eyes off a cute music box - a sleeping baby inside a small shoe (128 yuan). You can wake the baby up by winding it; he will dance to the music. Another adorable music box resembles the classic British telephone booth (200 yuan).

The essential oil diffuser (72 yuan) makes a fitting gift for a friend's housewarming party. The essential oil comes in a decorated glass bottle. Remove the cap and dip the diffuser's willow reeds into the bottle. The reeds will absorb the oil and release fragrance into the air through a cotton thread; you will have none of the smoke, dripping wax and anxiety that comes with burning a scented candle.

A little potted cactus (50 yuan) is a good addition to your office desk. But it is more than a decoration: if you pull it out of the pot, it works as a ballpoint pen.

An elegant accessory for smokers is a portable ashtray: it is a round steel container with flower paintings on its lid (12 yuan). The shop also has chewing gum lighters, bug-looking locks and fruit post-it notes.

If you want to personalize a shirt, Koto can do it for you (15 yuan) using the 48-color Cloth Touch process.

At Koto, you may not find something you actually need, but you will definitely find something you like.

#### Koto

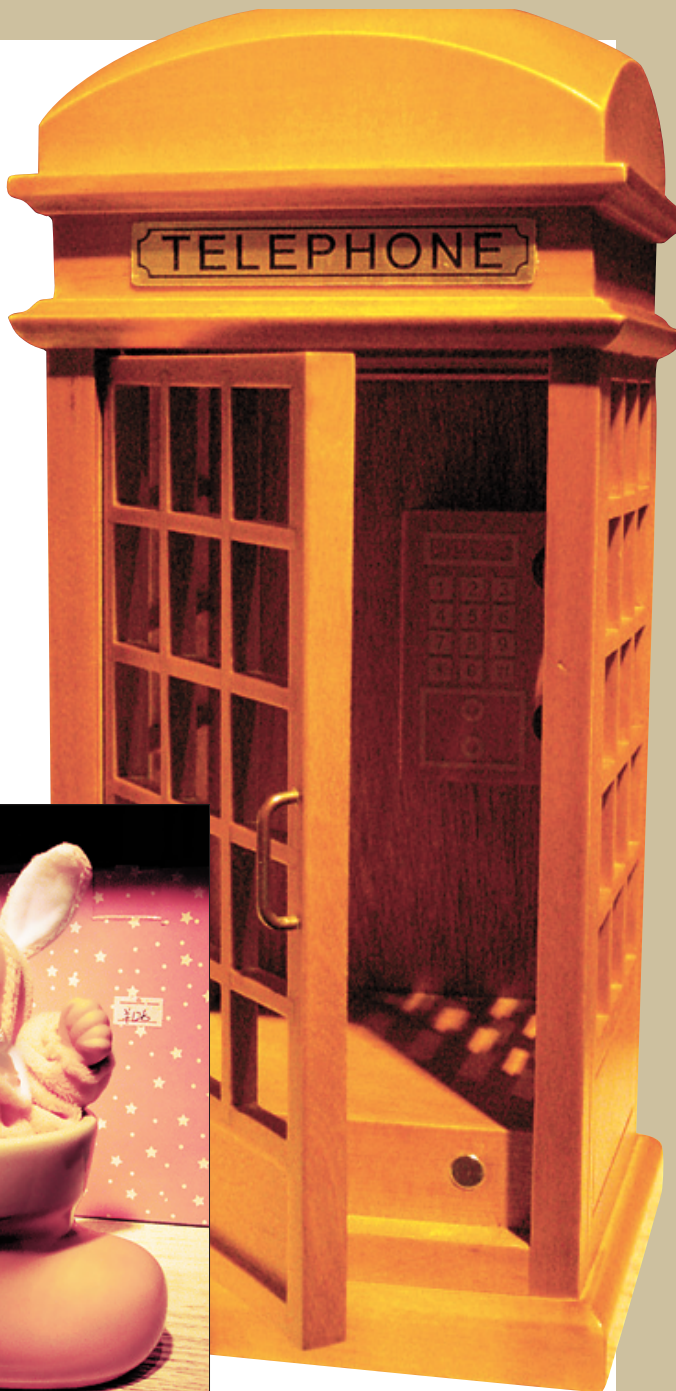
Where: South corner of Building A, SOHO New Town, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6580 1225

Music boxes starting from 100 yuan

Photos by Huang Xiao



### Wayne's & Michelle

By Huang Xiao

Wayne's & Michelle is a good choice for fashionistas on a budget and those who enjoy browsing boutiques with extraordinary items.

The store sells at a discount leftover stocks from name brands, which their buyers acquire in Hong Kong, Taiwan and other Asian counties.

In the past two years, it has also sold its own clothing designs. Named after its owners and designers, Wayne's & Michelle aims to expand its line to shoes, bags, hats, sunglasses and fashion jewelry.

In its SOHO New Town branch, the women's section is on the first floor and the men's on the second. The inventory is updated every three days, and sales personnel meticulously dress the window to reflect the newest trends.

One of the displays is a green, double-breasted jacket (119 yuan) with a military look, which seems to be the in thing this season. It has a short bodice and long sleeves. The floral lining adds feminine elegance to soften the effect.

There is also a black leather vest (150 yuan) that complements the hippie look. It contains bronze buttons and has a tassel at the bottom.

Women who plan to wear long shirts or short skirts in winter can do well with long, tight drainpipe trousers with a three-inch zipper (200 yuan). It is available in a variety of colors, including purple and deep blue.

Sometimes the material is not up to par, but the designs are hard to resist. Clothing tags provide the equivalent of Chinese sizes in US and European countries.

Thai-style necklaces, silver bracelets and retro earrings are also sold.

#### Wayne's & Michelle

Where: Room 603, Bldg C, SOHO New Town, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9:30 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8580 3609

Continued on page 17...



... continued from page 16



Shota Muni Sushi &amp; Grill



South Gold Coast, 78 yuan

Photos by Huang Xiao

## Shota Muni Sushi & Grill

By Huang Xiao

Restaurants opening and closing is a common sight in CBD. The ones that have stood the test of time include Shota Muni Sushi & Grill. It serves quick and affordable Japanese food in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere.

Two huge paintings of Japanese ladies in kimonos dominate the wall along the entrance. The pretty modern decor incorporates Japanese details here and there. While waiting for your meal with a cup of barley tea, you might notice the small elegant teapots, porcelain cups and leaf-shaped sauce dishes.

You can also sit at the sushi bar to watch the chef prepare your sashimi or choose a drink from the display wall.

The restaurant has private rooms on the second floor for big groups or parties.

Shota Muni's regulars describe the restaurant's sushi as "creative," "fresh" and "value for money." Popular picks include the CBD roll (68 yuan), Norway ocean roll (68 yuan), rainbow roll (58 yuan), California roll (36 yuan) and fairytale in autumn roll (58 yuan).

Two sushi dishes debuted this summer: South Gold Coast (78 yuan), which contains mango and pear topped with shrimp, and sushi supreme (78 yuan) – chicken and fried asparagus in a roll covered with tuna and crab roe soaked in salad dressing.

For healthy appetizers, try the seaweed salad (18 yuan), hiyayakko tofu (18 yuan) or miso soup.

Sushi, sashimi or sashimi combo are 40 percent off during lunch from Monday to Friday (before 2:30 pm). The service at Shota Muni is very good; the staff is attentive – one of the reasons the restaurant has made it this far.

### Shota Muni Sushi & Grill

Where: S-108, Bldg C, Blue Castle Apartments, 3 Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 8599 9009

## Absolute Cate

By Huang Xiao

If you are someone who complains there is no place in Beijing to get a good Shanghai "shengjianbao" (pan-fried stuffed buns), you will change your mind after visiting Absolute Cate.

With chopped onions and sesame seeds sprinkled on top, the restaurant's shengjianbao sizzles on a black pan when it reaches your table. Its smell – slightly burned and with the fragrance of sesame and meat – makes you want to gobble up the entire plate at once. Take it slowly; they are hotter than you think, especially with flavored soup inside.

A cozy place with contemporary furniture, Absolute Cate serves well-made, home-style Shanghai food at reasonable prices.

Braised bean curd with black mushroom (15 yuan) makes a good appetizer.

For mains, try Absolute Cate's specialty dim sum and noodles: yadianfang steamed buns (18 yuan), which is great with lightly flavored pork and vegetable gruel (8 yuan). The latter is ideal for people who are trying to stay away from oily food.

There is also noodles with shrimp, fried fish and pork knuckles (25 yuan), and crispy deep-fried noodles with crabmeat and shrimp (35 yuan). Another is fried rib and rice cake in soy sauce (25 yuan), a classic sweet Shanghai dish.

End your meal with fried pumpkin ball (8 yuan), which leaves a hint of coconut on your tongue.

### Absolute Cate

Where: Room B118b, B/1 Tower 1, China Central Place, 81 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Daily 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5869 5277



Shanghai "shengjianbao" (pan-fried stuffed buns), 18 yuan

## Neverland Coffee

By Huang Xiao

Surrounded by office buildings, hotels, a cinema and a shopping mall, Neverland Coffee is nonetheless an oasis of calm in the busy CBD. The place is awash in cheerful colors; the silk curtains are green, the cushions purple and the corner sofas red. Floor-to-ceiling windows allow sunshine to illuminate it.

Sip some coffee or drink some Shiraz and feel your worries drift away. Take a book along or just savor a moment of solitude during your lunch break.

A basketball signed by Yao Ming is the centerpiece on a honeycomb green shelf; proudly displayed around it are exquisite tea kettles and cups designed by Heinrich Wang, a Chinese fine porcelain designer.

On the dining tables are ashtrays in quirky shapes beside the wooden menu. Toilet signs in English were designed by contemporary artist Xu Bing.

The restaurant offers a wide selection of coffees, including cappuccino almond syrup (32 yuan), Hawaii fruit iced coffee (38 yuan), cappuccino jasmine (32 yuan), caramel macchiato (32 yuan) and latte almond syrup (32 yuan).

Also available are vanilla smoothies (35 yuan) and chocolate milkshakes (30 yuan). For a healthier option, there are fresh fruit juices (35 yuan) such as kiwi, cantaloupe and lemon.

Occasionally, Neverland also serves contemporary Chinese cuisine. Try its "cuoyumian" (naked oats noodle), a Gansu dish. The noodles are shaped like little fish and can be prepared with or without meat.

Neverland has become a sort of cultural center, regularly co-organizing documentary screenings and book talk. Some evenings, you can catch Streaming, a multi-media work by contemporary artist Lin Shumin.

### Neverland Coffee

Where: Bldg 19-13-14, Wanda Plaza, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5820 5369

Neverland Coffee  
Photos by Huang Xiao





# First exhibition for the visually impaired

By Li Jing

The mainland's first art exhibition for the visually impaired, titled "Touching - from Louvre Museum to Beijing World Art Museum," opened Monday.

The exhibition helps the visually impaired appreciate art by encouraging them to touch the works on display.

"By touching, visually impaired visitors can create a picture in their minds, while volunteers standing next to each artwork can help out by offering instructions and providing background information," said Cyrille Gouyette, the exhibition's curator from the Louvre Museum in Paris.

There is also blind tracks for visually impaired guests, audio guides and instructions in Braille.

The exhibition, meanwhile, allows "sighted" visitors to experience art in a different way.

Touching enables them to notice more details in art works, such as the position of facial muscles, which are often missed by the eyes, Gouyette said. "They can close their eyes and focus all their attention on their sense of touch," she said.

"Touching" features 18 replicas of famous

sculptures in the Louvre collection, including *Venus de Milo*, a representation of classical female beauty; *Borghese Gladiator*, considered one of the best representations of the male body; and Michelangelo's *The Rebel Slave* which shows the power of emotion in art.

The exhibits are divided into five sections - "effort," "racing," "flying," "dancing" and "falling" - which depict the various techniques and facial expressions that artists over the centuries have employed in sculpture.

Created using 3D laser-rendering technology, the replicas look astonishingly similar to the originals. Their finish is made to resemble marble or bronze with the use of resin or plaster.

The exhibition will remain on the mainland until November 1; besides Beijing, it will also visit Fuzhou, Fujian Province, and Wuhan, Hubei Province.

**Touching - from Louvre Museum to Beijing World Art Museum**

Where: Beijing World Art Museum, 9A Fuxing Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 am - 5:30 pm  
Admission: Free for the disabled

Tel: 5980 2222



## Friday, October 9

### Exhibition

**Face - Li Yongbin Solo Exhibition**

Where: Art Issue Projects, A1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 8, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 6434 0266



**Dancing in the Castle - Chen Wei Solo Exhibition**

Where: Chen Linghui Contemporary Space, 1A Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 31, daily except Monday, 11 am - 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6431 8830

### Movie



**Lage Raho Munnabhai**

Where: MoBox Books Life, 288 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: 10 yuan  
Tel: 8261 8538

### Nightlife

**The First Busy Day**

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

**Lonely China Day Band**

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu (inside Fenghuayuan drive-in cinema), Chaoyang District

When: 10 pm  
Admission: 49.90 yuan  
Tel: 6436 8998

## Saturday, October 10

**Exhibition Hub - Where is the City?**

Where: White Space Beijing,

255 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 7, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 8456 2054

**The Records - Zhang Xiaogang Solo Exhibition**

Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 15, daily except Monday, 11 am - 7 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9781

### Movie

**Dust in the Wind**

Where: Lele Bar (50 meters east of Communication University of China's north gate), Dingfuzhuang, Chaoyang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6576 5987

### Nightlife

**The Greatness of Victory**

Where: MAO Livehouse,

111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080



**Hoochie Coochie Gentleman's first EP**

Where: Wild Strawberry Cafe, 52 Houhai Nanyan, Xicheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 8328 4250

**On the Road to Happiness**

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: 30 yuan; 15 yuan for students  
Tel: 5900 0969

## Sunday, October 11

### Exhibition

**Another Singularity - Antony Gormley Solo Exhibition**

Where: Galleria Continua Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 28, 2010, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9505



**Lee Jung Woong Solo Exhibition**

Where: Gallery TN, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu,

Chaoyang District

When: Until December 27, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9550

### Movie

**Red White**

Where: Caihuoche Salon, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6406 0658

### Nightlife

**Olá Beijing! Macao Gigs**

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

**Wind from the Grassland**

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 9:30 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 6265 3177

## Upcoming

### Nightlife

**The Sound of Hope**

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: October 13, 9 pm

Admission: 100 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

## Stage in November

### Concert

**Ensemble Sagittarius Concert**

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

When: November 1, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 60-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

**Maksim Piano Recital**

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: November 10, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

**Quatuor Diotima Beijing**

**Concert**

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

When: November 21, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

**David Braid Jazz Concert**

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

When: November 22, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

### Dance

**Tenderhook by the Scottish**

**Dance Theatre**

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

When: November 6-7, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 5833 1288

**ABT Contemporary Ballet Collection's Asia Premiere**

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 12-13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

**Carmen**

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: November 28-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,880 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Drama

**Romeo and Juliet by the British**

**TNT Theatre**

Where: Drama Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 9-10, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

### Opera

**The Magic Flute**

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 20-23, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)



# Home birth?

## Why not! But be prepared

By Venus Lee

Hospitals, with their professional staff and medical equipment, have long been considered the safest place to deliver a child. But for expectant women who get nervous and uncomfortable in staid, solemn maternity wards, there is an alternative: home birth. As long as your preparation is adequate, your home can be as good as, if not better than, the hospital.

### Home birth is as safe as hospital birth

A recent study by McMaster University researchers reveals that low-risk women giving birth with the assistance of midwives have positive outcomes regardless of where the delivery takes place.

The findings of the study are published in the Canadian medical journal *Birth*. It concludes that home birth is as safe as hospital delivery.

Almost 6,700 planned home births in Ontario were assessed in the study. Results indicated that newborns and mothers were no more likely to suffer complications than their counterparts in a clinical setting.

Eileen Hutton, the lead investigator of the study and assistant dean of midwifery at McMaster University, said home birth has been widely debated over the last 40 to 50 years. As expectant women gradually made their way into hospitals without clear evidence that it was the safest place to deliver, home births became more and more discouraged.

Hutton and a team of researchers examined records of women who had planned home or hospital births between 2003 and 2006. They used an electronic database of midwifery care compiled by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The researchers compared 6,692 home births with the same number of hospital births. Both groups were at low risk for complications. Findings suggested that the risk of death was very low for mother and child in both the hospital and home settings. The mortality rate was one per 1,000 live births in both cases. No maternal deaths were reported in either group.

The study examined the occurrence of serious complications, such as death, need for immediate medical care after birth, neonatal resuscitation, admission to a pediatric intensive care unit and low birth weight. It was lower in the home-birth group (2.3 percent) compared to the hospital group (2.8 percent). It was also the case for all interventions with 5.2 percent home birth compared to 8.1 percent hospital, including cesarean section.

### Tips for having a healthy home birth

If you have already decided on a home birth, chances are you have already done quite a bit of research into what that may entail. Educating yourself about what to expect during labor is an important first step, but preparation does not stop there. Here are some suggestions for setting up a positive, stress-free and happy environment for when the big day (or night) finally arrives.

#### 1. Find an experienced midwife.

Look for a midwife with experience, someone who can handle difficult situations and who is supportive of your choice to deliver at home. "The best way to find a midwife is to ask other women who've had midwife-assisted births," said retired gynecologist Yang Qinglan. "Once you have a list of names, don't be afraid to ask the midwife about her experience, especially if you have a particular concern." Be thorough, ask for and contact references, and make sure you feel absolutely comfortable with your choice before you make the hire.

#### 2. Take a childbirth preparation class or watch home-birth videos.

It is even more important for home-birth mothers and their partners to be prepared than for hospital-birth mothers. Regardless of the type of class, couples should attend together.

#### 3. Prepare your bed.

Even if you are not planning to actually give birth in bed – opting for a birthing pool instead, for example – it is a good idea to get your bed ready just in case. "You can make things a little easier if you make up your bottom sheet as usual and then cover it with a waterproof sheet and put tarpaulins or several old sheets over the top," Yang said. "Then you can give yourself plenty of flexibility without having to worry about spoiling carpets and the like."

#### 4. Have supplies ready well in advance.

"Write a list of what's needed and where it is in case you're in no mood or position to field questions about where the towels are," Yang said.

Old towels or terry nappies are useful for soaking up the mess when your water breaks. Both you and your baby will need a good supply of soft, clean towels after the birth.

Also, "a bowl or bucket for the pla-

centa," Yang said. "Well, you don't want anyone slipping on it, do you?"

In addition: pillows, birthing ball, herbal teas, heavy-duty pads for postpartum bleeding, new baby essentials such as vests, scratch mitts, nappies, receiving blanket and bedding.

#### 5. Prepare pain relief.

You may not have access to the full range of pain relief medicines that a hospital might, but there are still plenty of options. A few examples include exercise, massage, pethidine, TENS machines and aromatherapy. You will need to think ahead about what you want and check that your midwife is experienced in administering the pain relief you need.

#### 6. Think about your environment.

Many women find that in addition to all the essentials, a few birthing props can come in handy for creating a more relaxed environment. Prepare in advance any aromatherapy scents, music or massage oils that you would like to use during the birth.

#### 7. Practice ahead of time if using a birthing pool.

If you are using a home birthing pool, it is really important that you practice filling it beforehand. "Yes, it's a fuss, and the instructions look easy to follow, but it might not be as easy as you thought," Yang said. "You will, in any case, need to clean your pool before you use it, even if it is new."

#### 8. Make sure to go over the transfer plan.

Nobody wants to think about potentially going to the hospital when they are planning a home birth. But however determined you are to give birth at home, there is a chance that it may be necessary to visit a hospital should complications arise, so make sure you know which hospital is closest. Ask your midwife if she has a relationship with any particular hospital, if she could accompany you to the hospital should it be necessary and whether she knows any backup obstetricians. "Although some midwives have very low transfer rates, they should still advise you on how they will proceed if an emergency should arise," Yang said. "Also find out what kinds of complications could lead to a transfer – not to scare you, but to make you and your partner aware."



CFP Photo



# Peering at old layers

## A walk through the imperial capital's three 'cities'



By Zhang Dongya

Old Beijing was like a Russian babushka doll, one doll hiding another inside it: the capital had an Outer City, Inner City and Imperial City. The former Imperial City, where the royalty lived, contains many historical relics, such as temples and meticulously designed residences.

The wall of the Imperial City was torn down during the Republic of China period (1912-1949). And with modernization continuing unabated in the country, more and more of the area's old features are fast disappearing.

What is left of the Imperial City and how have the changes affected the lives of residents there? Beijing Today joined a tour from the Inner City to the Imperial city, organized by 90 Percent Travel agency, to find the answer.



Meng Xiaodong's former residence in Jiaozi Hutong has a typical Menzi Door.

### Layout of imperial Beijing

Beijing as the imperial capital was constructed and flourished during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. The old city's layout, which remains until today, was set up in Ming. Qing leaders kept the layout and main structures, merely conducting restorations and making improvements.

It had an Outer City, Inner City and Imperial City. The Outer City, built during Ming Dynasty Emperor Jia Jing's reign (1522-1566), largely encompassed what is today Chaoyang and Xuanwu districts. The Inner City, where commoners lived, roughly covered what is now Dongcheng and Xicheng districts.

At the center of the capital was the Imperial City, the only residents of whom were the royal family, their servants and merchants catering to their needs. At the Imperial City's core lay the Forbidden City.

Imperial Beijing stretched from what is now Ping'an Avenue in the north to Chang'an Avenue in the south. It extended from Dongcheng's Huangchenggen Relics Park in the east to Xicheng's Xi Huangchenggen in the west.

It took 600 years to build the imperial capital – the world's largest and best-preserved imperial city.

### Homes speak of hierarchy

90 Percent Travel's city walk set off from Longfusi Pailou (Longfu Temple Archway) to Jiaozi Hutong, located on Dongs North Avenue.

The hutong is very narrow, only enough for people and sedan chairs in olden times to pass through the lane. It contains many siheyuan, or courtyard residences, designed depending on the social status of their owners.

Imperial society had a hierarchical structure, and distinctions among classes were made based on a person's dress and home. A house's main entrance was one of the most common indicators of status. People with the lowest rank had a Ruyi Door, which contained two ornaments at the top and the characters *ru* and *yi*, the symbol of good luck. The next in rank had a Manzi Door with four ornaments. People higher up the ladder, like officials, had a Jinzhu or Guangliang Door, which were broader and higher.

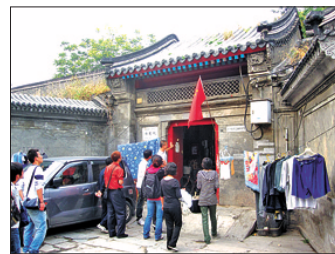
On No. 8 Jiaozi Hutong is a courtyard called Sedan Chair House, which used to be the residence of Meng Xiaodong, a famous Peking Opera singer in the 1920s better known as Mei Lanfang's mistress. The eight decades-old house, which has retained its Manzi Door, is now owned by Hua Yinghong, a Chinese-German. People who would like to visit the place should make an appointment with Hua.

The tour's next stop was Huangmi Hutong, which passed Qianliang Hutong from Jiaozi. It was built in the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368) and is one of Beijing's oldest hutong.

On No. 9 Huangmi Hutong is a strange-looking two-door house. It has a high and broad entrance with a Ruyi Door, but the space was obviously designed for a Guangliang Door. Once inside the house, visitors will see a Guangliang Door. Why was the place designed like this? The tour guide surmised that it was owned by a high-ranking imperial official who wanted to keep a low profile after the Xinhai Revolution in 1911, when the last dynasty was overthrown and the Republic established. Anybody associated with the old ruling system became a target of persecution.



Gege Fu in Da Qudeng Hutong serves Qing-style banquets.



A strange-looking two-door house in Huangmi Hutong draws visitors.



The stone carving on the wall is a symbol of wealth and prosperity.



A Ruyi Door with two ornaments on top denotes the home of society's lowest-ranking members.



An old courtyard has been restored by locals.

Photos by Jason Wang

Continued on page 21...



... continued from page 20



Sanyanjing Hutong is said to have supplied water to the imperial palace during the Qing Dynasty.



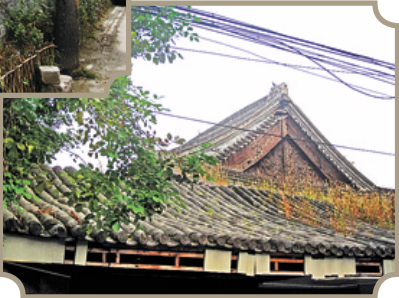
Refined brick carvings in Sanyanjing Hutong contain articles of the "Secret Eight Immortals."



Crumbling walls in what used to be the Imperial City

Songzhu Temple is now closed. People can only see its magnificent upper halls from surrounding hutong.

Photos by Jason Wang



Huangmi Hutong has a dead end, so the city-walk participants turned back and wove their way through Xiao Qudeng Hutong and Da Qudeng Hutong. No. 9 Da Qudeng Hutong contains a large courtyard originally owned by a nobleman in the Qing Dynasty. It is called Gege Fu, which refers to the home of Qing princes. The courtyard has been turned into a restaurant that serves Qing-style banquets.

### Institutions in the Imperial City

From Huangchenggen Relics Park, the 90 Percent Travel group entered the Imperial City. There used to be a city wall that separated the Inner City from the Imperial City and served as a boundary between royalty and commoners. The wall was torn down during the Republic of China period and now there is nothing that marks the line between the old city's two parts.

Most structures in the Imperial City were buildings like temples, government offices and warehouses. It also contained gardens and hunting fields.

The tour's first stop was Songzhu Temple. Built during Qing, it served as a place of worship for Hutuktu, or "the Living Buddha" to Inner Mongolians.

The temple is closed and most of its buildings have been torn down. But from surrounding hutong, visitors can still see the temple's magnificent upper halls.

Next stop was Sanyanjing, or three-mouthed well, Hutong. It is said to have served as a source of water for the imperial palace during Qing.

People who look closely will find on Sanyanjing's wall a section with carvings on refined bricks. The bricks, and some stones, have sealed up what used to be a door. The carvings are on the articles of the Eight Immortals of ancient China, also called the "Secret Eight Immortals," in which sword is referred to

as Lu Dongbing and lotus He Xiang.

No. 61 Sanyanjing is a famous courtyard – Mao Zedong's residence when he worked at the Beijing University library in 1918. He later moved to No. 8 Ji'ansuo Zuo Xiang, an alley connected to Sanyanjing.

Ji'ansuo used to house a morgue for the imperial family in the Ming Dynasty. The place now houses an army camp with high walls and wire fences.

Since the end of Qing, ordinary citizens have taken residence in the former Imperial City. Some elderly people enthusiastically share the history of their hutong or courtyard homes. Amid old structures, new courtyards and new houses have been built. Although most of the old city walls are gone, there are a few crumbling sections left that lay testament to an old way of life.



90 Percent Travel's city walk enters the Imperial City from Huangchenggen Relics Park.

### Tour information

Travel Agency: 90 Percent Travel  
When: Once a month (call for exact dates)  
Cost: Free  
Tel: 15117916648  
Email: info@90percenttravel.com  
Notes:  
1. The city walk is a four-hour outdoor tour, which includes a stop at a facility for the men-

tally disabled.  
2. 90 Percent Travel works together with the center called Huiling to help Beijing's mentally disabled. Huiling, located in the former Imperial City, provides traditional Chinese culture lessons given by trained members of the city's mentally disabled community. Visitors are encouraged to give donations.



B1, SLG46, The Village, Sanlitun, Beijing.  
Tel: 64160527  
Unit L118, Level1, 99 Yuxiang road, Beijing.  
Tel: 80466348  
No. 36, Jiangtai road, Beijing.  
Tel: 64383713  
www.crumpler.com.au





## Dining

### A La Mama

Bring your best friends and family for a great Italian family-style dinner. La Gondola cooks mother's authentic recipes and serves the dishes just like at home.

Where: Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until October 31, 5:30 – 11 pm  
Tel: 6465 3388 or 5707

### Fizztastic champagne brunch

It's that time of year! Create the spookiest pumpkin carving and win great prizes such as a kids birthday party package and lots of Halloween goodies for trick-or-treating.

Where: Penta, Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

When: November 1, noon – 3 pm

Cost: 368 yuan, subject to 15 percent surcharge; kids under 12 enjoy 50 percent off; kids under 6 eat for free

Tel: 5812 8888 ext. 8411

### Wagyu beef and grilled panini

Australian Wagyu is renowned for its exquisite marbling, tenderness and luxurious flavor. Tantalizing dishes designed to melt in your mouth at Prego restaurant.

Fresh warm *panini* lightly toasted, filled with

superfood-inspired fillings. Grab this delicious healthy alternative from now on.

Where: The Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District  
When: Until October 31  
Tel: 6629 7815 or 7812

### Evian and Badoit

Evian and Badoit are making quite a splash on the natural mineral water market with the international launch of a new aspirational range of products in glass that reflect the contemporary style and positioning of the two brands. The simultaneous launch of this sparkling duo is a first for Danone, which is clearly addressing the expectations of restaurateurs, hotel owners and consumers.



### Mosto's anniversary menu

Dive headfirst and sample Mosto's fine Mediterranean cuisine with a special six-course anniversary tasting menu. You get to sample three starters, such as the lovely shrimp ceviche salad, two mains of fish and ribs and a chocolate soufflé to finish on a sweet note.

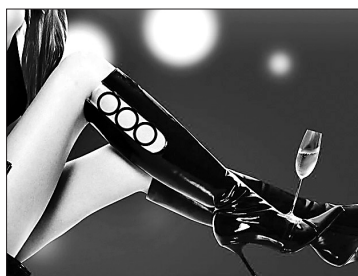
Where: Mosto, Third Floor, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Noon – 2:45 pm  
Cost: 350 yuan  
Tel: 8610 8889

## Event

### Ladies night

An evening where females are most definitely on top. Roll down to Zeta after work, expect free award-winning VnC cocktails for ladies, great music, dance performance, giveaways and Zeta's dedicated second-floor Girl-zone, where only girls are allowed.

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Every Thursday, 9 pm onwards  
Cost: Free entrance  
Tel: 5865 5050



### Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts conducts its largest scale Sales Mission in China

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts launches its largest scale Sales Mission in China. Forty of the group's properties around the world, including 28 mainland China hotels, will participate in the two-week sales and promotional event covering eight cities across the country.

The event will introduce not only the group's milestone development, highlighted by the opening of new hotels in Ningbo, Wenzhou, Tokyo, Vancouver and the Maldives, but also the group's hotel projects currently under development.

### First birthday

Come celebrate the first birthday of Punk, and what better way to mark this momentous occasion than with one of its regular guests, Kid Fresh. His past sets have always led to long nights of dancing and good times. Alongside Kid Fresh will be Beijing Zoo regulars DJ Lo Man

and DJ Saul D, who will make you shake what your mama gave you.

Where: Punk, The Opposite House, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: October 17  
Tel: 6410 5240

## Charity

### Renovations provide donations to orphanages

Renovations at the middle/high school this year enabled Beanstalk International Bilingual School (BIBS) to donate replaced furniture to two deserving enterprises. BIBS invited Sonya and Jordan Tetley from The River of Grace Church to choose from among the furniture on behalf of the Faith Orphan-

age in Grand Bassa County, Liberia. The Orphanage houses 76 students and serves 10 students in the neighborhood. In addition, BIBS donated desks, chairs and lockers to Sun Village, a Beijing orphanage that has helped over 4,000 kids who were sick and homeless in the past 15 years.

## Hotel

### The special package

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of China, Grand Millennium Beijing presents a special package, including complimentary Internet service. The package cannot be used in conjunction with other hotel promotions and contract rates.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: September 27 – October 10  
Cost: 600 yuan, subject to 15 percent surcharge per room per night, with daily 60 yuan credit allowance, non-accumulative  
Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 5888

### Green Globe Benchmarked

The Regent Beijing has achieved the prestigious Green Globe Benchmarked Bronze status under the Green Globe Earthcheck Benchmarking program managed by EC3 Global. The global program recognizes The Regent Beijing's commitment to operating at the world's highest environmental standard.

Web site: regenthotels.com/beijingcn

## Apartment



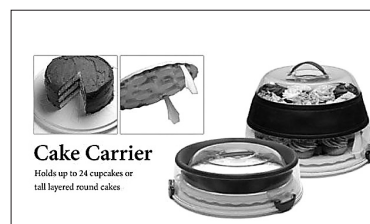
### Grand opening of The Sandalwood – Beijing Marriott Executive Apartments

The Sandalwood – Beijing Marriott Executive Apartments celebrated its grand opening ceremony. The president of Fuhah International Group, Chiu Yung, presented the golden key to Henry Lee (Marriott International – Area Vice President, China) and the GM of the Sandalwood – Beijing Marriott Executive Apartments, Chris Shum.

Marriott International now has 21 Marriott Executive Apartments worldwide, and the Sandalwood – Beijing Marriott Executive Apartments represents the fourth and newest in China. This grand opening ceremony marks a successful cooperation between Marriott International and Fuhah International Group.

Where: The Sandalwood Beijing Marriott Executive Apartments, 23 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 8557 8888

## Store



Cake Carrier

Holds up to 24 cupcakes or tall layered round cakes

### Pantry Magic

New products have arrived in Pantry Magic. The Cake Carrier is able to hold up to 24 cupcakes or tall layered round cakes. Other products include burger press, multi-tier cake pan, four-cup tart pan and perforated baguette pan.

(By Sun Feng)



## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# I've just made the handwriting on the wall



By Wang Yu

To live in a so-called international Chinese city like Beijing, you need to learn to speak at least some English, especially if you are a member of the local art or music circle. There are always foreigners around you, some of them journalists, who might quiz you about these aspects of Chinese culture.

However, it is not a pleasant experience listening to most local artists rattle off in English – or more appropriately, Chinglish.

One night this summer when the warm air had just been cooled by heavy rain, Mandy Wang, a friend who works as a music editor, invited me to watch some local bands perform at a reputable live music venue.

Within the area was a quiet inexpensive restaurant that makes excellent roast fish, so another friend called Liu and I decided to stop by before the show. The restaurant was full when we got there and we were told we had to wait half an hour for a table. We decided to wait at the music venue's bar.

"Ah ... it's not only about our music, you know, in China, people don't understand us, they are silly ..."

I overheard the conversation going on behind us the moment we sat down at the bar. The speaker was one of the most popular rockers in Beijing. He was being interviewed in English by a foreign reporter.

"We are a band, do England rock music. I like the English life in the last century, it's free and good ... In China, you don't have money to make music," said the guy, whose name will be withheld for the sake of his reputation.

"Do you mean musicians don't need money?" the journalist said.

"No, we are poor," he clarified.

"Did he just say 'England rock'? Oh, that guy's English is really good," Mandy Wang, who decided to join Liu and me, said in a low voice.

"Yeah, but he doesn't know the word 'British,'" I said.

Half an hour had passed, our beer bottles were almost empty, but we still had not received a call from the fish restaurant. So we continued eavesdropping on the rock star; he talked about his dreams, how unfair the world was and how poorly the local music industry was doing.

"We are the same, all the artist. Music, paint and others. I always see a lot of ...

you know, the writing on the walls, the writers are really good, I like them."

"The writing on the wall?" The journalist sounded confused.

"Yes, words and pictures on the walls, like the hip-hop style."

"Oh, you mean graffiti."

"Yes, graffiti, I can't remember the English ... We are the same artist, people don't care about our work," the rocker said.

But why did the journalist get confused when the musician said "writing on the wall"? What does the phrase mean?

"It's an idiom, meaning a warning of danger or bad luck. It originates in the Biblical book of Daniel where supernatural writing foretold the demise of the Babylonian Empire," Wang said smugly.

"Whoah ... are you Google?" I said, taken aback.

"To pass the GREs, you have to know a lot, sweetheart," she said with a grin.

Yes, she turned out to be right with "writing on the wall." I always learn something new when I listen to Chinese people speak English. I just wish I could speak like our rocker friend – with his confidence and not his mistakes.

## Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

## 1. It's no accident.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** "Accident" is a noun that means something that happened by chance and resulted in damage or loss. You cannot say, It's no accident; you need to use the adjective form "accidental," which means something unplanned, unexpected. "It's not accidental." Similarly, you cannot say, It's no surprise that he is late for the meeting; you have to say, It's not surprising that he is late for the meeting.

## Native speaker Penny Turner

**(PT):** "It's no accident" is an idiomatic expression, which means something that is not an accident: it is something foreseen, planned, intended, desired. "It's no accident she has good skin. She does not drink or smoke, sleeps by midnight every day and slathers her face with sunscreen." Professor Zhu's correction and explanation were right, but the original sentence was also correct. Sometimes idioms just do not follow grammatical rules. As Evan Jenkins wrote in *That or Which, and Why: A Usage Guide for Thoughtful Writers and Editors*: "The answer seems to lie largely with idiom – the way things are expressed simply because they're expressed that way."

## 2. The clinic will open since January 1.

**ZS:** The time sequence in this sentence is confusing. If you say that the clinic "will open," it surely means sometime in the future. Then how can you say "since"? When you use "since," it means an action has been done from a definite time in the past until now. For example, I have been working on the program since May. So, it is wrong to use "since" in this case; you will have to say: The clinic will open beginning January 1, or, The clinic will open by January 1.

**PT:** The professor explained it all. "Since" points to a time period in the past, so it cannot be used together with "will," which indicates an action that has not yet occurred. In addition to Professor Zhu's corrections, the writer can also say, The clinic will open on January 1, or, The clinic will be open from January 1. Once the clinic is open, you can then say, The clinic has been open since January 1.

## 3. The remain of the white marble bridge.

**ZS:** "Remains," when it means what is left behind, such as the carcass of an animal, or things left from the past, such as a building or monument, is always spelled out with an "s." You cannot use its singular form "remain." Note the following examples: The remains of the meal were fed to the dog, Washington's remains were buried at Mount Vernon, or, The remains of the Boeing 707, which crashed over the Atlantic, were salvaged from deep sea. We may also say, The remains of an ancient civilization. Clearly, the sentence above should be, The remains of the white marble bridge.

**PT:** Again, the professor hits the mark. But I understand how remain/remains might confuse a non-native speaker. The writer might have been thinking of what remained (verb) of the white marble bridge. Well, what remained of the bridge is its remains (noun). It expresses the same idea as ruins, wreckage and remnants.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

## Wash and protect the bag

By Tiffany Tan

I bought this bag so it could protect delicate clothing that I throw into the washing machine. Now its packaging says I should wash and protect the bag!?

This syntax is common in Chinese people's translation of English sentences or phrases. I think it has largely to do with the fact that the noun and verb forms of many Chinese words are similar. The verb "wash," for instance, is *xidi*; the noun "washing" (as in the process of washing) is also *xidi*. The

verb "protect" and its noun form "protection" are both *baohu*.

When you go to Chinese-English dictionaries, the first translation you get for a Chinese verb/noun is its English verb, hence the request for me to "preserve" my purchase.

The bag is called different things: wash bag, washing bag, mesh wash bag, laundry wash bag, lingerie bag, mesh lingerie bag ... No wonder the Chinese manufacturer chose the simpler "wash and protect the bag."



Photo by Tiffany Tan



# Monsters vs. Aliens (2009)



## Movie of the week

What would you do if, on your wedding day, you were hit by a meteorite that turns you into a giant? It would be terrible, right? Well, Dream Works has used this starting point to create a comedy.

Some people will not like this movie because it is dull and the plot is nearly nonexistent. Others will love it, as it is similar to classic B-movies such as *Attack of the 50 Foot Woman*, *Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *The Fly*. A strength of this sweet film is its use of ironic, sometimes downright sarcastic, language to satirize just about everyone, such as the US president, who plays a synthesizer as part of negotiations with the aliens.

## Scene 1

(After being turned into a giant, Susan is captured by a secret government agency. At the base, she meets three monsters: B.O.B., Dr. Cockroach and The Missing Link.)

**B.O.B. (B):** My back ... Just kidding! I don't have a back!

**Dr. Cockroach (C):** Forgive him, but as you can see, he has no brain.

**B:** Turns out (1) you don't need one. Totally overrated! As a matter of fact, I don't even ... I forgot how to breathe! Don't know how to breathe. Help me, Dr. Cockroach! Help!

**C:** Suck in (2), B.O.B.

**B:** Thanks, Doc. You're a lifesaver.

**The Missing Link (L):** Wow, look at you. I know what you're thinking. First day in prison, you want to take down the toughest guy in the yard. Well, I'd like to see you try. Ninja! Gosh. Look, she's speechless.

**B:** She?

**C:** Yes, B.O.B! We are in the presence of (3) the rare female monster.

**B:** No way! It's a boy. Look at his boobies.

**L:** We need to have a talk.

**C:** Gentlemen, I'm afraid we are not making a very good first impression.

**L:** At least I'm talking. First new monster in years, we couldn't get a wolf man or a mummy? Just, you know, somebody to play cards with.

**C:** Might we ask your name, madam?

**Susan (S):** Susan ...

**B:** No, no, no. We mean your monster name. Like, what do people scream when they see you coming? You know, like, "Look out! Here comes ...!"

**S:** Susan ...

**C:** Really?

**B:** Susan! I just scared myself. That is scary.

## Scene 2

(Aliens begin to invade Earth to find the power of the meteorite. President Hathaway and his advisors discuss how to deal with the invasion.)

**Advisor A:** Sir! We need to declare a ...

**Advisor B:** We need to overthrow that robot and install our own government!

**Advisor C:** Let's sacrifice the elderly to it!

**Advisor D:** I say we invade it! The Earth only has two weeks left!

**Advisor A:** If that thing walks into a populated area there'll be a major catastrophe (4)!

**Advisor B:** We need our top scientific minds on



## Synopsis

When a meteorite hits a young California woman named Susan Murphy and turns her into a giant monster, she is taken to a secret government compound where she meets a ragtag group of monsters also rounded up over the years. When aliens attack, the motley crew of monsters is summoned as a last resort from a desperate president and, under the guidance of General W.R. Monger, called on to save the world from imminent destruction.

this. Get India on the phone!

**Advisor C:** Can we transport the United States to a safer planet?

**Advisor D:** I say we give this alien a green card and make him proud to be an American.

**Advisor E:** Sir, it's at dire times like this when I stop and ask myself, "What would Oprah do?"

**President Hathaway (H):** Hang it all! What's the point? It's a disaster.

**Advisors:** Stop! No! Don't do it! That button launches our nuclear missiles!

**H:** Well, which button gets me a latte?

**Advisor F:** Er ... That would be the other one, sir.

**H:** What idiot designed this thing?

**Advisor F:** You did, sir.

**H:** Fair enough. Wilson, fire somebody!

**Officer Wilson:** Yes, sir, Mr. President.

**H:** Listen up. I'm not going to go down in history as the president who was in office when the world came to an end, so somebody think of something, and think of it fast!

That is a good cup of joe (5).

## Scene 3

(The team of monsters has just destroyed a huge alien robot.)

**S:** Three weeks ago, if you had asked me to defeat a giant alien robot, I'd have said, "No can do." But I did it! Me! I'm still buzzing (6). Did you see how strong I was?! Probably isn't a jar in this world I can't open.

**C:** You were positively heroic, my dear. I especially loved how you saved those people on the bridge. It was a nice touch. Wasn't she amazing, Link?

**L:** Yeah, she was great. Really cool. Loved it.

**C:** Oh, poor Link. After all that tough talk, you were out-monstered by a girl. No wonder you're depressed.

**L:** Hey, I'm not depressed. I'm tired.

**B:** Why are you tired? You didn't do anything.

**L:** Well, I haven't been sleeping well.

**S:** So Link's a little rusty ... I mean, sleep-deprived. You'll be back to your old self in no time (7). And so will I ...

## Vocabulary

1. turns out: here it means "in fact"

2. suck in: to breathe in

3. in the presence of: in front of or amid

4. catastrophe: a great and sudden disaster

5. a cup of joe: an American saying for "coffee"

6. buzzing: in a state of overexcitement

7. in no time: soon

(By Wang Yu)

